

Italian planes to use British base

LONDON (R) — Britain said Wednesday it was letting Italy deploy up to six F-104 Starfighters at a British air base in Cyprus to provide defensive cover for Italian troops in Lebanon. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "The role of the F-104's is entirely in self-defence." He said the planes would use Akrotiri base alongside six Buccaneer aircraft sent to Cyprus earlier this month to back up British troops in the Lebanon Multinational Force. Cyprus is about 30 minutes' flying time from Lebanon and the Buccaneers have already swooped over Beirut in a show of force. Italy has some 2,000 troops in Beirut. Britain has a 97-man armoured car unit. The Foreign Office said Britain received a request from the Italian government to use Akrotiri and ministers agreed.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Defence ministers meet in Paris

PARIS (R) — The Defence Ministers of France, Britain and West Germany discussed mutual collaboration projects and Lebanon Wednesday, diplomatic sources said. They stressed that the main topic of the meeting by Charles Hernu of France, Michael Heseltine of Britain and West Germany's Manfred Wörner was the collaboration projects. Other sources said they were unaware of a Lebanese request for small French and Italian troop contingents to supervise a ceasefire in the Shouf Mountains, present centre of combat between the Lebanese army and its opponents. But, they added, France has supported Lebanon's request for United Nations military observers, and probably would agree to contribute soldiers to such a force. France has not yet reacted to the tentative United States decision to authorise its Marines to remain with the Multinational Force in Beirut for 18 more months and has no plans to withdraw its 2,000 troops from the force, sources said.

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Arafat criticises U.S. shelling of Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted Wednesday as calling U.S. Navy shelling of anti-government forces near Beirut a threat to the Palestinian revolution. He said this would lead to occupation of Lebanon and urged Arab countries to unite against the U.S. threat, the Palestinian News Agency Wafa reported from Tripoli, northern Lebanon.

Reagan issues new instructions on missiles

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Wednesday issued fresh instructions to U.S. negotiators on medium-range missiles in Europe that the White House said were intended to promote an agreement before NATO deploys new missiles later this year. Based on consultations with West European allies and Japan, Paul Nitze, chief U.S. negotiator on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF), has received new instructions intended "to move the negotiations forward," the White House said.

U.S. battleship New Jersey enters Mediterranean

WASHINGTON (R) — The battleship New Jersey has entered the Mediterranean to join other vessels of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, whose ships have been shelling anti-government positions near Beirut, the Pentagon said Wednesday. The 58,000-ton New Jersey has 16-inch (407 mm) guns capable of hurling 1,230 kilogram shells 35 kilometres. Should it be called into action, its big guns would be used to augment the five-inch (127 mm) guns now being used against the Lebanese positions threatening the U.S. Marines in Beirut.

Soviet official begins talks in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — A senior Soviet official began talks Wednesday with Egypt's Deputy Foreign Minister, Omar Sharif, on improving relations between the two countries. Oleg Grinevsky, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near East Department, had talks lasting more than two hours. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who came to power about two years ago after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat, has said he hopes to send an ambassador to Moscow this year.

Singer Fayeza Ahmad dies

CAIRO (R) — Singer Fayeza Ahmad died in hospital Wednesday after a long struggle with cancer. The official Middle East News Agency said Fayeza, 51, spent the last 48 hours at the intensive care unit of the military hospital in Maadi, near Cairo. Fayeza, of Syrian origin, had lived in Egypt for the past 30 years and was one of the most popular singers in the Arab World.

Lebanese jets attack anti-government forces

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese warplanes attacked anti-government militia positions in the hills southeast of Beirut Wednesday in response to an offensive against the strategic town of Souk Al Gharb, a Lebanese army spokesman said.

The Hawker Hunter fighter-bombers raided at 2.10 p.m. (12.10 GMT) to silence guns firing at army positions in the embattled town. Captain Youssef Atrissi said. The air raids were the first since Monday and followed a night of fierce fighting in the mountains between the Lebanese army and mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militias allied to Lebanese leftist and Palestinian groups.

Beirut Radio said the planes were still in action at 2.32 p.m. (12.32 GMT). The insurgents were attacking Souk Al Gharb, 15 kilometres from central Beirut, from the nearby town of Alei. It added. "The battle for Souk Al Gharb started over two weeks ago and neither side has yet been able to claim a decisive victory."

The fighting, which varies wildly in intensity from day to day, flared again Tuesday night and thousands of shells and rockets landed in almost every part of the capital.

Bush fires broke out in the southern and eastern foothills surrounding the city and were still raging Wednesday.

Civil defence workers fought to bring the flames under control and appealed for help from people with water tankers.

Artillery exchanges continued Wednesday morning, but at a

much reduced level, the army spokesman said.

Beirut Radio stations reported sporadic bombardment of areas from the southern suburbs, round eastwards to Baabda and Yarz, site of the Presidential Palace and the Lebanese Defence Ministry, then north to the Meiri mountains and the coastal town of Jballi (Byblos), where the air force has its only operational base.

When the U.S. ambassador's residence in Yarz came under attack Tuesday night, the staff had to take refuge in the president's palace some 200 metres away.

The staff, including Ambassador Robert Dillon, moved back into the residence a few hours later.

Two U.S. warships off the Lebanese coast fired over 30 five-inch rounds in response, aiming at an artillery battery and a mobile rocket-launcher in the Souk Al Gharb area, a U.S. Marine spokesman said.

The Americans in Beirut were the target of another attack early Wednesday morning, when a rocket-propelled grenade smashed into the wall of a west Beirut building used by the embassy.

It made a hole in the wall but there were no casualties and little damage, an embassy employee told Reuters.

The incident was unusual because the grenade must have been

fired from nearby, well inside the area controlled by the Lebanese army.

In Baabda Wednesday, the Lebanese cabinet met to hear President Amin Gemayel's response to Saudi proposals for a ceasefire between the army and the anti-government forces.

The Saudi plan proposes a truce along the present front lines, neutral observers to monitor it and eventually a national dialogue to decide the political future of Lebanon.

But Syria, which has been negotiating on behalf of its Lebanese PSP allies, has insisted on excluding certain politicians from the dialogue. Lebanese government sources say.

A cabinet statement from Information Minister Roger Shikhaoui said U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane and Lebanese-born Saudi businessman Rafik Hariri were now in Saudi Arabia to pass on the Lebanese government's response to the Saudi ideas.

Beirut was awaiting specific answers from Riyadh, he said.

The statement said Lebanon was not prepared to make any further concessions, especially on constitutional institutions.

This apparently referred to the Syrian demand that Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan and parliamentary Speaker Kamel Al Assad should not take part in the national dialogue.

Lebanese government sources Tuesday night said this was unreasonable. Mr. Wazzan represented an important section of Lebanese opinion while Assad had helped maintain the constitution through parliament, they said.

Shamir prepares to succeed Begin

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Hardline Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was preparing to succeed Menachem Begin Wednesday as Israel's seventh prime minister after receiving a presidential mandate to form a new coalition government.

The prime minister-designate immediately called on the opposition Labour Party to serve under him in a national unity government, but Labour's response was not encouraging.

Mr. Shamir told reporters after meeting President Chaim Herzog: "I am deeply convinced that the situation in the nation requires a widely-based government that would include all the Zionist parties."

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In an interview with state radio, Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said his party would consider a formal invitation, but predicted that it would turn it down. Labour could not serve in a Shamir government, without sacrificing its principles, he said.

"Their basic lines are not acceptable to us. They have brought about a severe economic slump, complications in Lebanon and in the (occupied Arab) territories. We have our own path and will continue to follow it," he declared.

Labour opposes Mr. Shamir's rightist economic, social, foreign and defence programmes. It is ready for a territorial compromise with Arabs on the West Bank and

wants a more rapid withdrawal from Lebanon.

Mr. Shamir, 67, has three weeks to formalise his coalition, which will apparently be identical to Mr. Begin's outgoing government.

He is assured of the support of the same five right-wing and religious parties, giving him 64 seats in the 120-member Knesset (parliament).

Mr. Shamir, a former operations commander of the Stern Gang, the most violent of the underground Jewish organisations that fought the British administration in Palestine before the state of Israel was declared in 1948, is expected to follow Begin's hardline policies.

Bush attacks Soviet policy in Europe

VIENNA (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush delivered a stinging condemnation of Soviet policy in Eastern Europe Wednesday but said the United States did not want its criticisms to jeopardise human rights gains in the East Bloc.

Bush told a news conference before leaving Vienna for Washington that the Reagan administration believed there had been progress towards liberalisation in Romania and Hungary and would shape its policies to those countries accordingly.

He also said he was optimistic that world opinion would force the Soviet Union to continue talks with the United States at Geneva on the reduction of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe, even if new NATO missiles were deployed in December.

Hungary and Romania, Soviet Warsaw Pact allies, were two of seven countries which Mr. Bush visited during an 11-day tour through North Africa and Eastern and Central Europe which ended Wednesday.

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U.S. negotiator optimistic on nuclear accord

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union may be able to reach a preliminary nuclear weapons agreement by the end of the year despite the chill in East-West relations, the chief U.S. negotiator said in an interview Wednesday.

Edward Rowney, chief negotiator at the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) in Geneva, told the Washington Post an early agreement on overall guidelines for reducing long-range missiles could be reached provided arrangements were made for Secretary of State George Shultz to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Plans for a meeting between the two men during the current United Nations session fell through when the U.S. banned Mr. Gromyko's flight into the New York area in retaliation for the shooting down of a South Korean airliner on Sept. 1. Mr. Gromyko cancelled his trip.

Mr. Rowney said progress in the last round of START negotiations had created the possibility of reaching a preliminary agreement which would include counting nuclear warheads rather than missile launches.

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In Bonn West German opposition arms expert Egon Bahr said Wednesday Kremlin leader Yuri Andropov had shown new signs of negotiating flexibility to the West in a recent letter on nuclear arms limitation.

The letter, published by the official Soviet News Agency TASS Tuesday and addressed to parliamentary deputies of Mr. Bahr's Social Democratic (SPD) Party, outlined Soviet proposals for forestalling NATO deployment of new U.S. missiles this autumn.

Mr. Bahr said the letter, which came amid wide speculation over imminent new U.S. proposals to limit medium-range weapons, was clearly directed at Washington and its allies.

"The Federal (West German) government would do well to look at the thing very closely and study it thoroughly because it is very carefully formulated. These are not just positions we already know but the letter contains new aspects as well," he said in a statement.

Among new points was a proposal for a full ban on testing nuclear warheads and missiles, he said.

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Spent shell casings fly from the M-16 automatic rifle of a Lebanese army soldier Tuesday during fighting on the strategic Shouf Mountains (A.P. wirephoto).

Reagan blames Syria, PLO for fighting

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Wednesday blamed Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for the fighting in Lebanon and said failure to achieve a ceasefire could doom prospects for the Middle East peace.

He told a group of broadcasters at the White House that negotiations were continuing and "we still have reason to believe we can obtain that ceasefire," but "if this fails, the peace plan for the whole Middle East... I think also goes."

Mr. Reagan's comments followed similar accusations by Secretary of State George Shultz, who appeared before congressional committees to urge support for a resolution that would allow U.S. Marines in the Multinational Force to remain in Lebanon for 18 months.

Referring to the difficulties in obtaining a ceasefire, Mr. Reagan said: "The opposition to that is coming from Syria and now from the PLO, who have re-infiltrated after they were once taken out of the country and have moved into the fighting."

In a reference to Soviet military backing for Syria, Mr. Reagan said: "They [the Syrians] and, I think under the influence of Soviet forces that are there in their own country, are behind much of what's presently going on in Lebanon."

He said the U.S. Marine presence was essential "if the Soviet-sponsored aggression is to end."

Mr. Reagan also blamed Syria for the breakdown in efforts to remove foreign forces from Lebanon, saying it had reneged on a promise to withdraw if Israel, which invaded Lebanon in June 1982, also agreed to leave.

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Syria's refusal to remove its troops.

In Damascus, Syria warned Wednesday that U.S. military involvement in Lebanon "in support of one faction against another" could endanger regional and international peace.

"It would be useful for all the warring factions in Lebanon and all those associated with them to remember that the Mediterranean Sea is not an American lake nor the Middle East an extension of California," state-run Damascus Radio said.

"This region of the world is a crossroads of many interests and events in it could influence the security of countries and blocs very close to the region," it said.

The radio was referring to this week's American naval bombardment of Syrian-backed anti-government forces near the Lebanese mountain town of Souk Al Gharb.

Sharon urges more Marines in Lebanon

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon Wednesday urged the United States to land more Marines in Lebanon to save the government of President Amin Gemayel.

In an interview published in Wednesday's Jerusalem Post, Mr. Sharon said America should urgently deploy 2,000 Marine reinforcements from the Sixth Fleet to hold the strategic mountain town of Souk Al Gharb, 15 kilometres southeast of Beirut.

Naval bombardment in support of the Lebanese army was not enough to fight off an insurgent assault on the town, he said.

If Souk Al Gharb fell, nothing could stop Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from returning to west Beirut, which would mean the end of the Gemayel government and Lebanon's independence, he stated.

Mr. Sharon said Israel should warn the Druze to halt their advance and stop cooperating with the PLO.

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Gonzalez praised for stand on military

MADRID (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez won support Wednesday for his firm stand against military meddling in politics but was criticised for sidestepping major issues in a parliamentary debate.

Ex-Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and two influential newspapers, El Pais and Diario 16, said Mr. Gonzalez's assertion that the armed forces had no role to play in politics in Spain was important and timely.

Mr. Gonzalez referred to the military at the start of his two-hour address to congress (the lower house) Tuesday in the context of a top army general dismissed last week for openly defying the 10-month-old Socialist government.

"No power can supplant the popular will. There can be no autonomous military power," Mr. Gonzalez said.

He concentrated most of his speech on defending the Socialist government's record. Mr. Gonzalez claimed success in meeting key economic goals such as reduction in inflation, a slowing of the rise in unemployment and increased exports.

Opposition leader Manuel Fraga said Mr. Gonzalez was misguided in his optimistic assessment of the economy and ambiguous in his foreign policy.

Poland accused of ill-treating imprisoned Solidarity official

WARSAW (R) — Polish prison authorities have been accused in an open letter to head of state Henryk Jablonski of systematically ill-treating Solidarity union official Seweryn Jaworski.

Sources at the banned union said 150 people, mostly former martial law detainees, had signed the letter and a duplicate bearing 42 signatures was made available to Reuters.

It said Jaworski had been deprived of essential medicine, locked in a punishment cell, beaten up several times by wardens, deprived of his Bible and barred from listening to Sunday mass on the radio.

Underground followers of the banned union still regard Seweryn Jaworski, 52, as deputy to Zbigniew Bujak, chief of the Mazowsze region of Solidarity, which covers Warsaw.

He was expelled from the Communist Party in 1956, joined Solidarity in September 1980 and was arrested when martial law was imposed on Dec. 13, 1981.

He has been in jail without trial since then and is regarded by the Communist authorities as one of the country's strongest radicals. He is also staunchly Catholic.

He helped to lead a November 1981 strike of cadet firemen at their school in Warsaw and encouraged them to oppose riot police who besieged the school for several days, finally breaking in and dispersing the strikers.

But recently Chinese officials have said through interviews and leaks that Britain is insisting on an administrative role in Hong Kong after 1997, an idea Peking rejected out of hand.

Hussein, Noor arrive in Singapore

SINGAPORE (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said here Wednesday that the Middle East region was passing through the most crucial stage of its history and requires an urgent and speedy solution of the Palestinian problem based on U.N. Security Council resolutions that would restore usurped lands to their legitimate owners, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said.

The King was speaking upon arrival here at the start of a three-day private visit in the course of an Asian tour.

Asked by reporters on the situation in Lebanon, King Hussein expressed hope that the Lebanese will be able to solve their differences and preserve their country's unity and Arab status.

During his visit, King Hussein said that he will have talks with Singapore's leaders on a number of world issues including the Middle East crisis and trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and Singapore, Petra said.

The King, Her Majesty Queen Noor and their accompanying delegation were accorded an official welcome ceremony at the airport upon arrival. The King and Queen will be meeting with President Devan Nair and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, and will be touring a big industrial complex and the busy Singapore harbour Thursday. The Royal party was accorded an official dinner banquet Wednesday evening by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and his wife. It was attended by senior Singaporean officials.

The Jordanian delegation comprises Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Zaid Ibn Shaker and the National Planning Council President Hanna Odeh.

King Hussein, who was here last in 1976, is scheduled to leave on Friday for the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

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MIDDLE EAST

Moscow avoids direct role in Lebanon

By Charles Bremner
Reuter

MOSCOW — American military actions in Lebanon have provided the Soviet Union with powerful political ammunition but the Kremlin is likely to steer clear of direct involvement in the conflict, diplomats have said.

With its backing for Syria and the Lebanese leftists, Moscow is hoping to make the most of U.S. difficulties with the aim of recovering some prestige after years of U.S. pre-eminence in the region, they said.

"They have a negative card to play. They will do everything to drag it out for the Americans," one Middle Eastern envoy said.

Diplomats also noted that the conflict in Lebanon had helped turn the international spotlight away from the Kremlin over the issue of the Korean airliner, shot down by a Soviet jet.

For Moscow, the shelling of guerrilla positions by U.S. warships Monday was proof of what it had been saying since the Marines

went into Lebanon with the Multi-National Force last year — they were there to establish a U.S. foothold.

In a formal statement that indicated Kremlin authority, the official news agency TASS accused Washington of fanning the fighting in an attempt to impose U.S.-Israeli rule in the Middle East.

"The American administration will not escape responsibility for the crimes perpetrated against the Lebanese," TASS said.

In a despatch Tuesday, the agency said the United States had "launched virtual aggression against the Lebanese people" by shelling civilians as well as guerrilla and Syrian positions.

The diplomats said Moscow clearly hoped to see the United States become bogged down in its military efforts to support the government of President Amin Gemayel.

They added that this would provide some satisfaction after the Kremlin stood by last year while Israel defeated Syrian and Palestinian troops armed and trained by the Soviet Union.

The diplomats said although there was a potential for sup-

porting conflict, Moscow would seek to avoid a major flare-up in the Middle East and they noted that the TASS statement, while talking of responsibility, avoided any clear threats.

Last year Moscow made tougher comments that talked of "consequences" for the United States if it sent in its own peace-keeping forces, the diplomats noted.

But the Soviet Union was certain to see the latest fighting as a

potential test for the military credibility of Syria, its major Arab ally, and hence for its own standing, they said.

Since the retreat of Syrian forces last year, Moscow has thrown its weight heavily behind Damascus, stepping up supplies of sophisticated military equipment, including SAM-5 and SAM-6 surface-to-air missiles.

Other weapons are reported to include several dozen modern T-72 tanks and self-propelled howitzers.

According to Western estimates between 2,000 and 5,000 Soviet personnel are serving in Syria, with several hundred on Lebanese territory.

The Soviet Union is bound to Syria under a friendship treaty signed in October 1980, but diplomats said the clauses on military assistance were vaguely worded and did not commit Moscow to specific action in an emergency.

This meant that while giving Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad maximum logistical support, Moscow could refrain from involving Soviet personnel in any fighting,

Mondale declares 'bumbling' U.S. must be peacemaker in Lebanon

NEW YORK (R) — Former Vice President Walter Mondale has accused the Reagan administration of bumbling in the Middle East and said the United States had no choice but to become the "peacemaker" in Lebanon.

Speaking to Jewish leaders in New York, Mr. Mondale said: "Today we have troops in Lebanon but no policy... peacemaking is not enough. We must undertake the difficult but indisputable task of peacemaking as well."

The Democratic presidential hopeful said the United States could achieve this aim partly by strengthening defensive ties with Israel.

He told members of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations that it was time for the United States to end its go-it-alone policy in the Middle East by forging a strategic cooperation relationship with Israel.

He added, "to deter the Soviets and their allies, Israel must be our partner. Israel's defensive strength would help keep the Soviets in check."

Mr. Mondale suggested several other measures to make peace in Lebanon, including making it clear that America would never accept a Lebanon "under control" of the Syrians or their radical allies.

He said the United States should "work along with other members of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force to thwart... dangerous aggression" in Lebanon and make it clear that attacks on U.S. Marines there would be considered intolerable.

He also said the U.N. Security Council should discuss ordering the Syrians out of Lebanon and Saudi Arabia and the Arab League should be urged to pressure Syria to leave.

Mr. Mondale was the second major contender for the Democratic presidential nomination to address a group here in two weeks on Israel and the Middle East.

Last week Ohio Sen. John Glenn said the United States should end its efforts at being even-handed in the region and strongly support Israel.

He added that the United States should be prepared to move its embassy in Israel occupied Jerusalem when the time is right.

Mr. Glenn said Washington's first and foremost interest in the Middle East was "our unshakable commitment to Israel's security and prosperity." The Ohio senator has often been criticised by backers of Israel, who questioned his conviction in supporting the country and say his position has been ambiguous.

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League should be urged to pressure Syria to leave.

Mr. Mondale was the second major contender for the Democratic presidential nomination to address a group here in two weeks on Israel and the Middle East.

Last week Ohio Sen. John Glenn said the United States should end its efforts at being even-handed in the region and strongly support Israel.

He added that the United States should be prepared to move its embassy in Israel occupied Jerusalem when the time is right.

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France tries to find diplomatic way out of Chad stalemate

By Mary Ellen Bortin
Reuter

PARIS — France, facing growing impatience from the Hissene Habre government in N'djamena, has been engaging in intensive behind-the-scenes diplomacy to extricate its forces from an apparent military stalemate in Chad.

But despite contacts aimed at exerting pressure on Libya to withdraw its troops from the vast Central African country, France sees no quick solution to the 18-year-old Chad civil war and is trying to limit its losses, diplomatic sources say.

Since France began sending 2,500 paratroopers to Chad over a month ago, Paris has dispatched envoys to Tripoli, Algiers, Addis Ababa, Vienna, Rome and New Delhi "to explain the French position on Libya", a well-informed source said.

In the interim, the deployment of the French "deterrent force" across the centre of the country has effectively blocked the Libyan-backed rebels of former Chad President Goukouni Oueddei from making a further south-

ward drive.

But the Habre government has recently stepped up criticism of the French military role, accusing Paris of making a secret pact with Libya not to fight and so permanently partition the country with the north going to Libya and the south to France.

President Francois Mitterrand is also facing growing pressure at home to define his strategy in Chad, with charges that he waited too long to despatch the paratroopers and has now involved the country in a military and political quagmire.

"After weeks of hesitation, a French force is sent in. It is defensive, that is, a de facto partition has apparently been accepted, that is, in the long run there is no more Chad," former Prime Minister Michel Debre said in a recent press commentary.

Other politicians have begun asking for precise information on the length and cost of the French military operation in Chad, details of which Mr. Mitterrand's Socialist administration has so far refused to provide.

Officials in Paris maintain that

the decision to send an expeditionary force to Chad was precisely timed and has achieved its objective of stopping the latest outbreak of fighting.

But although the first step has been successful, and despite Mr. Mitterrand's denial that he would accept partition of the former French colony, there has been no firm sign of how he plans to break the stalemate.

The French, who do not wish to get involved in the domestic conflict over who should rule Chad, have angered Mr. Habre through their refusal to help his troops recapture the rebel-held north.

Mr. Habre, who sees Libya as bent on expansion and a menace to the area, recently refused an offer for talks from Mr. Goukouni, a personal enemy whom he ousted from the presidency in June 1982.

But diplomats say Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, who denies having any troops in Chad, is sensitive to France's refusal to provide Mr. Habre with the all-out military support he requested and remains open to the French diplomatic initiative.

Officials in Paris maintain that

By sending envoys to foreign capitals with close ties to Libya, they say, France hopes to gather enough leverage to convince Tripoli to withdraw its troops and move towards negotiating a lasting peace in the region.

Although Mr. Mitterrand has kept his numerous indirect contacts with Libya a well-guarded secret and officials deny any direct French negotiations with Qadhafi, various scenarios are being considered, diplomats say.

One would be for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to set up an inter-African peace force in Chad, which would be jointly financed by France and Libya.

Although France has not yet been approached about the reported plan, it strongly bopes African countries will take up the attempt to resolve the Chad problem and would seriously consider any request from the OAU, well-informed sources said.

A second possibility would be a pan-African accord under which Libya would pledge to stop alleged interference in Africa in exchange for reassurances that other states in the region would block

any U.S. attempt to subvert the Tripoli government.

But analysts say time is on Qadhafi's side, with the economic and political cost of the French military operation steadily increasing as the discussions drag on.

Unless the French diplomatic offensive achieves quick results, they say, a weakened Habre government could be forced to accept a necessarily pro-Libyan coalition.

French Defence Minister Charles Hernu said last week he was "closely monitoring" reports of a possible attempt by Libya to move its fighters further south, and reiterated the need for intensive diplomacy to avoid a lengthy military engagement.

The French are unwilling to go further in backing Mr. Habre for both domestic and international policy reasons, diplomats say.

On the home front, loss of French lives in fighting in the African desert would have unacceptable political repercussions for Mr. Mitterrand, and his Socialist government does not want to be identified with alleged American attempts to weaken Qadhafi.

Israeli press to boycott Sharon

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The association of Israeli journalists in occupied Jerusalem Tuesday night declared its members would boycott public appearances by former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon in response to his "undemocratic attacks on the press."

The association said Mr. Sharon had been attacking journalists in recent speeches and whipping up an atmosphere of hate against them.

Mr. Sharon stated this was not the first attempt to muzzle him and promised to continue to express his views to the Israeli public.

Mr. Sharon, minister without portfolio in Menachem Begin's outgoing cabinet, was forced to leave the defence ministry last February for his part in last year's Beirut massacre of Palestinian civilians by Lebanese Fanalists.

In recent speeches he has accused press critics of helping anti-Israeli elements at home and abroad who were trying to weaken the nation.

They said several sources had confirmed that guerrillas had also set fire to a large ammunition dump and deposits of uniforms and food at the airport, which was still closed at the end of last week.

Steady guerrilla attacks reported from Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan guerrillas destroyed more than 20 Soviet trucks bringing fuel south via the Salang tunnel to Kabul last week, Western diplomats said.

They said the guerrillas attacked the convoy just south of the tunnel as it entered the Shomali Valley, about 65 kilometres north of the capital.

The diplomats, who are informed by their embassies in Kabul, said travellers passing through the area later reported that the main north-south highway was littered with burning vehicles.

Some reports spoke of dead Soviet drivers lying by the road, they added.

In Mazār-e Sharif, the main city in northern Afghanistan, more than 150 guerrillas opposed to the Soviet-backed Kabul government destroyed at least two MIG jet fighters and three helicopters in an attack on the airport on Sept. 5 or 6, the diplomats said.

They said several sources had confirmed that guerrillas had also set fire to a large ammunition dump and deposits of uniforms and food at the airport, which was still closed at the end of last week.

The diplomats also quoted their Kabul embassies as saying the government had begun re-drafting men who had finished their military service.

They said about 500 men who had served in the army between March, 1978, and March, 1980 — until just after the December 1979 Soviet intervention — were brought in for conscription in Kabul on Sept. 8.

The men, who protested that they had valid exemptions from further service, were freed that evening but told they might be picked up after the Eid Al-Adha, they said.

The diplomats said they regularly heard reports of desertions from the Afghan army, the latest coming from the eastern province of Paktia where guerrillas have narrowed in on three strategic towns close to the Pakistan border.

Travellers arriving in Islamabad from Paktia Province reported that the few dozen Soviet advisers in the Afghan army garrison at Khost had left after guerrillas took all the military posts surrounding the city.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan River bridges to close

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli Occupation Authorities announced Wednesday that they will close the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad Bridges to traffic Thursday and Friday mornings due to the holding of a Jewish feast.

U. of J. to hold student induction events

AMMAN (J.T.) — The students' affairs department at the University of Jordan will hold several intensive induction activities in the new academic year. The activities aim to help new students adapt to the university's atmosphere and to become fully acquainted with its various facilities. These activities, which will take place between Sept. 24 and Sept. 26, will include students' meeting with faculty deans, a film on the university, tennis and volleyball matches, and a concert. All the tickets for activities will be free.

Bashir hospital treats food poisonings.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Bashir Hospital has treated 80 cases of food poisoning which occurred during the recent Eid Al Adha holiday, a hospital spokesman said Wednesday. He added that most of the cases, primarily children from the Ashrafieh, Taj, Jofeh, Webdat, Hamran, Al Naser and northern Hashemeh areas of Amman. The hospital was open 24 hours a day to offer medical treatment to the patients who were all discharged from hospital having made a full recovery, the spokesman added.

One dead in road accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — One person was killed and 49 people were injured in road accidents which occurred between Sept. 14 and Sept. 19, a spokesman for the Traffic Department said Wednesday. The total number of accidents which occurred during this period was 116 accidents, the spokesman added. He said that most of the accidents were caused by speeding and general carelessness.

UNICEF to compile freelance roster

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) intends to prepare a roster of Arab freelance journalists, translators, photographers, film producers and writers from the region. The roster will include Jordanian media workers who are requested to contact the UNICEF offices in Amman if interested.

West Bank refugees target of renewed settler attacks

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of Israelis from the Kiryat Arba' settlement in the occupied West Bank Monday committed another assault on Palestinian refugees in Al Oroub camp in which they beat ten youths having claimed that they had stoned an Israeli car, the French News Agency AFP reported.

The agency also said that upon informing the Israeli authorities of the assault, they refused to show any concern. The agency added that, according to eyewitnesses, Israeli police officers participated in the attack against the Palestinian refugees in the camp.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian youth from Balata camp near Nablus was badly injured Sunday after being shot by three unidentified men from a speeding car.

In response to those attacks, a number of Al Oroub camp residents Tuesday issued a complaint against a number of Jewish settlers and Israeli police officers. They accused the police and settlers of attacking the refugee camp and arresting 11 of its residents during which they were beaten. To date, the police have refused to charge those being held.

The Israeli authorities, according to Jordanian News Agency, Petra, have ignored all complaints issued by Arabs against Jewish settlers let alone the ones against the Israeli police forces.

One of the major problems currently facing the Israeli government, according to AFP, is the reversed migration which is increasing year by year. The report pointed out that the number of Jews who emigrated from Israel during the last year reached 15,000 despite the great efforts made to eliminate this development.

The reasons behind this emigration, according to AFP, are the difficult living and working conditions, the lack of good housing facilities and the complications of the Israeli bureaucracy.

In South Africa, a journalist and previous publisher in Argentina, Mr. Jacobo Timmerman, was denied an entry visa to Johannesburg, where he was expected to lecture about the academic freedom and make a series of speeches on human rights.

The Associated Press News Agency (AP) reported that the reason for the South African government not granting Mr. Timmerman an entry visa was a request by the Israeli embassy in Pretoria to stop his visit.

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gration, according to AFP, are the difficult living and working conditions, the lack of good housing facilities and the complications of the Israeli bureaucracy.

In South Africa, a journalist and previous publisher in Argentina, Mr. Jacobo Timmerman, was denied an entry visa to Johannesburg, where he was expected to lecture about the academic freedom and make a series of speeches on human rights.

The Associated Press News Agency (AP) reported that the reason for the South African government not granting Mr. Timmerman an entry visa was a request by the Israeli embassy in Pretoria to stop his visit.

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Nabulsi clarifies foreign bank ownership policy

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan Governor Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi has clarified certain points he made in an interview with the Jordan Times published last week regarding the Jordanian government's policy of having foreign banks in the country become 51 per cent locally owned within a period of three years.

In a telephone interview today from Paris, where Dr. Nabulsi is on a business trip, he told the Jordan Times that "the policy of the Central Bank of Jordan remains to invite foreign banks in the country to transform their equity shareholding structure to become 51 per cent owned by Jordanian shareholders, but we aim to do this on a negotiable basis over a period of time."

"We have invited foreign banks to do this already in some cases, and we intend to continue to invite them to take advantage of the expansion opportunities that will be possible for foreign banks once their equity is 51 per cent owned by Jordanians. We do not wish to compel them to make this change, and we do not expect now to issue any categorical new regulations to force the foreign banks to become locally owned," he said.

Dr. Nabulsi stressed that "this matter has been going on for some time, and it reflects a longstanding Central Bank policy goal of majority local ownership of all banks operating in Jordan. We hope to continue our discussions with the foreign banks about this subject, and hope that those who make the change voluntarily in the near future will be an example to others of the advantages that can derive from such a move."

He also said that it was up to the government to decide if any categorical regulations would be issued to give this policy aim the force of law, and emphasised that no such moves were anticipated in the immediate future.

Dr. Nabulsi's clarifications today appear to soften the impression that many foreign bankers

construed, from his interview last week, that a compelling law would be issued forcing foreign banks to make the change in their equity shareholdings.

Foreign bankers in Jordan have reacted quickly to the latest Central Bank statements, indicating they will try to maintain their majority shareholdings wherever possible. Some of the options foreign bankers are contemplating include working in Jordan on the basis of representative offices, dealing only with foreign exchange operations and Jordanian banking requirements with an international dimension, dealing only in investment or merchant banking operations, or, in extreme cases, pulling out of the local banking scene altogether.

A long period of negotiations is expected now between the Central Bank and the foreign banks in Jordan. One foreign bank, the Arab Land Bank, has already accepted the Central Bank's proposals and some others are expected to follow suit, though most foreign banks in Jordan are expected to present their cases for maintaining their present status.

Meanwhile, in a related development the Reuters news agency Wednesday quoted a Central Bank official as saying that an announcement is to be made by the end of the year requiring majority Jordanian ownership of all banks.

Executive director of the central bank, Dr. Adnan Al-Hindi, told Reuters the rules requiring 51 per cent Jordanian ownership would be implemented gradually.

He said foreign banks would be free to choose partners who were

established, publicly-held companies and "not individuals who are just interested in buying and selling shares in order to get rich."

Foreign banks which took on Jordanian partners would receive equal treatment with domestic banks meaning that they would be allowed to open new branches, unlike at present, and could continue to repatriate profits, he said.

Dr. Hindi said there had been initial resistance from the banks to a cabinet decision four months ago requiring Jordanian majority ownership.

"But we are sure they will respond favourably once they realise that the move will do their business good," he said.

Among the banks affected would be Grindlays Bank of Britain and the British Bank of the Middle East, a Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation subsidiary.

Bank Al-Mashrek of Lebanon, the Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Chase Manhattan Bank and Citibank NA of the United States and a number of other foreign banks also have Jordanian operations.

He expected the banks to adopt a wait-and-see attitude on the new regulation. "Maybe they want to see how the Arab Land Bank will fare with Jordanian partners," he added.

The Central Bank of Jordan ceased issuing new banking licences in 1978 and recently stopped giving permits for new finance companies in a move to develop the banking system.

Yomani seeks RSS study

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Yomani said the ministry has asked the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to carry out a study on municipalities' role in development. The study will focus on the increasing role of municipalities in development through providing services to citizens.

Dutch group promotes understanding of Palestinian plight

By Affiah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The young people of the Netherlands have gradually become interested in the Palestinian problem and consequently have become very keen on establishing close contacts with the Palestinian people.

Those growing links have recently been manifested in a group of around 30 young people from Holland who came to Jordan last month on a volunteer basis to undertake construction work at Al Nuzha School in the Al Hussein Refugee Camp.

The five-week programme was organised by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in cooperation with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

The volunteer programme was the outcome of a two-month tour to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by a young Dutch man, Wim Mess, in 1981.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Mess said that his visit to the Arab region gave him a clearer picture of the situation in the Middle East as well as the hardships of the Palestinian refugees living in the camps set up after the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967.

He added that during his visit, he had established contacts with UNRWA officials "to allocate any kind of work for a Dutch team to help in refugee camps."

Having returned home, that year, Mr. Mess contacted friends and published an advertisement in a Dutch newspaper calling on people to participate in a volunteer programme in one of the refugee camps in Jordan.

In 1981 a group of around 10 Dutch people came to Jordan and "executed a limited programme in one of the camps," he said.

Mr. Mess said that the positive response and the cooperative attitude of the Palestinian refugees in the camps "encouraged us, and made us arrange another programme for this year."

Mr. Mess pointed out that the construction programme offered to Al Nuzha School is not of chief importance to the whole group as "we are rather concerned to mingle in with the Palestinian people, exchanging points of views and getting closely acquainted with the Palestinian problem."

He said that, due to the strong Zionist lobby in Holland since World War Two and sympathy for the Jewish holocaust, the Dutch people are more pro-Israeli than pro-Palestinian "for they

Jordan Times

Responsible Editor: **MOHAMMAD AMAD**
 Editor: **GEORGE S. HAWATMEH**
 Senior Editor: **RAMI G. KHOURI**
 Editorial and advertising offices: **Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.**
 Telephones: 666320, 666265 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
 Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.
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The Marines have to stay, says Weinberger

By U.S. Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger

The following article by Mr. Weinberger appeared in the Sept. 18 Washington Post.

WASHINGTON — A year ago, President Reagan outlined our four broad objectives for the Middle East:

1. A cessation of Syrian/Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Israeli hostilities;
2. A secure northern border for Israel;
3. The reestablishment of a strong central government of Lebanon, which could secure sovereign control of Lebanese territory; and
4. The departure of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

We have encountered many difficulties over the past year, but our efforts have on balance moved us closer to meeting those objectives.

The first, the cessation of Israeli/Syrian/PLO hostilities — has already been achieved. American forces joined those of Italy, France and Great Britain in a multinational force that created the climate necessary for the successful conclusion of Ambassador Philip Habib's ceasefire negotiations and the evacuation of PLO commandos from Beirut.

By achieving the first objective we also created the conditions necessary to achieve the others, particularly a secure northern border for Israel, free from threat of bombardment and "terrorist" attack.

Although the Lebanese government is not yet strong enough

to take sovereign control of its territory, great strides have been taken toward meeting this third objective. A year ago the Lebanese army had not a viable military force. Today, after a major training and rearming effort by U.S. forces — 90 per cent of which has been paid for, in cash, by the Lebanese — the Lebanese army is a well-trained force whose internal cohesion and esprit de corps have been tested repeatedly and, thus far successfully, under fire. The officer and enlisted corps of today's Lebanese army is also representative of the ethnic and religious groups within the general Lebanese population, another great stride forward in a country where factional strife has been the norm for the last eight years.

But greatly complicating the Lebanese government's effort to reestablish order and national unity is the continued presence of

foreign forces on Lebanese soil. As long as foreign forces occupy sections of Lebanon, factional domestic militias have little incentive to lay down their arms and cooperate with the Lebanese government. Instead, these militias are exploiting the situation to improve their individual positions by skirmishing with each other and the Lebanese army, particularly in the Shouf Mountain area.

Our diplomatic efforts, concentrated in the subtle diplomacy of Ambassador William McFarlane, are aimed at securing the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and encouraging the domestic Lebanese factions to cease fire and join with the central Lebanese government in a national dialogue, that is, they are aimed at securing our fourth objective, the departure of all foreign forces from Lebanon. But as we have learned from other, suc-

cessful, Middle East negotiations, this diplomacy will need time to succeed. Successful diplomacy also requires the conviction on the part of other nations, especially Syria, that they do not have more to gain by simply awaiting the patience of the United States, Italy, France and Great Britain.

The presence of the Multinational Force, of which our Marines are a critical part, provides a level of stability necessary for diplomatic efforts to succeed. Its role today remains the same as a year ago: To support the efforts of the Lebanese government in consolidating its authority. It is not an offensive force, nor is it a substitute for the Lebanese army. By remaining in Lebanon, however, the Multinational Force serves as a deterrent to more intense fighting. It also provides a visible symbol of international support for the Lebanese government.

The Lebanese government and Lebanese army must have time to strengthen and solidify their position politically as well as militarily. President Amin Gemayel's attempts to gain the full support of the Druze, Muslim and Christian communities must be given a chance to work. And finally, Ambassador McFarlane's initiatives to negotiate among the parties involved and to work for withdrawal of all foreign forces must be allowed to continue.

The situation in Lebanon is now at a critical juncture. Events of the next few weeks and months will determine whether our objectives are achievable. But certainly we know this much: Our diplomatic efforts have a chance at succeeding only as long as the fighting in Lebanon can be kept to a minimum, and that is why, for now, the Multinational Force must remain.

Here comes the dog pack

IF YOU thought you heard dogs barking in the night, you were almost correct. The sounds you heard were the voices of the American presidential contenders trying to outbid each other in selling their souls at the highest price in pro-Israeli forces in the United States. First, we had John Glenn saying the United States' first and foremost interest in the Middle East was "our unshakable commitment to Israel's security and prosperity." He advocated an end to American "even-handedness" in the area and a more strikingly pro-Israeli posture by the United States.

Then, a few days later, The Awful Walter Mondale followed suit by proposing stronger American-Israeli military ties and a "strategic cooperation relationship" with Israel, suggesting this would also help keep the Soviets out of the Middle East. The Awful Walter Mondale is an old hand at this sort of soul-selling, and therefore we are not surprised that he has come out barking so quickly and so loudly.

But we are a bit surprised that Mr. John Glenn should have succumbed so swiftly to the intimidating tactics of the pro-Israeli groups in the United States. We thought that Mr. Glenn had been rather fair in his statements on the Arab-Israeli question in recent years — before he started running for president, panicked and threw all his sense of reason and fairness to the wind.

Well, it is another election year in the United States, and the dogs have started barking a bit earlier than usual. What do they get in return? Let us see. There are many other presidential hopefuls to follow, and the barking will become more intense as the dog pack gets bigger and the dogs become individually more desperate and more frantic. Watching American presidential hopefuls outbid each other for the financial and electoral support of Israel's American machine has always been one of the seedier and uglier sides of American democracy in action.

Why, you ask, cannot the United States adopt a truly impartial policy in the Middle East? Watch the dogs run in the American presidential race for the next year, and you will understand. It is a disgusting spectacle that should bring shame to rational and thoughtful Americans, but it is a reality that we have to live with. It proves the old truth, that individual dogs may be dangerous, but a pack of dogs is a real menace to the community.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. aims revealed

DESPITE THE partnership between the Americans, the French and the British in the current crisis in Lebanon and despite their joint massing of warships and troops around Lebanon, disagreement among the three partners became evident in the recent French statement. French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said that his country was against U.S. attempts to escalate tension in Lebanon and opposes its direct involvement in the factional war by shelling one of the warring groups in that country. The French minister said also that the U.S. involvement resembles the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and Israel's war of genocide against the Palestinian and Lebanese people there. Now that U.S. aggression has become so clear we have the right to ask why Washington did not intervene during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon or when the Israelis and the Falangists committed the massacres in the refugee camps? Why didn't Washington condemn the invasion and the acts of these neo-Nazi criminals?

It is regrettable to see the world once again looking on and watching these new acts of aggression in Lebanon without lifting a finger to help or to protest. The American aggression cannot achieve more than the Israeli aggression in Lebanon. Both achieved only failure while the world made a mockery of human rights, values and principles. The crisis in Lebanon can only be settled by the Lebanese themselves who must return to their old balanced formula based on the no victor no vanquished concept if they really want to live in peace and rid themselves from foreign intervention and influence.

Al Dustour: Gunboat diplomacy resurfaces

WITH ITS direct involvement in the current Lebanese war, the U.S. has revealed itself as a foreign power that is determined to impose its influence and hegemony on the region. The U.S., with its provocations in Lebanon, is reviving its gun-boat diplomacy in the Arab region which has long suffered from such practices in the past and has long striven to fight off all ugly imperialist policies. Washington has sent its naval forces tens of thousands of kilometres away from the American shores in order, so it claims to protect Souk Al Gharb. Intervention in defending this little town has in fact involved the U.S. directly in the war in Lebanon and has revealed Washington's intentions to further escalate the current devastating conflict in Lebanon.

We are surprised to hear the U.S. announce that Souk Al Gharb is of vital interest to the U.S. while it fails to do anything to end Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon and Palestine. Washington has been condoning Israel's expansionist policies in the Middle East and has blessed Israel's recent partial withdrawal to secure lines with the aim of perpetuating Israel's occupation of Lebanon. No doubt U.S. involvement in Lebanon's factional war is bound to aggravate the situation and will complicate the matters further and make a peaceful settlement more and more difficult to reach.

Sawt Al Shaab: Complexity of conflict grows

TO DATE all involvements in the Lebanese crisis have been under the slogan of peace. Syria entered Lebanon under the pretext of stopping the bloodshed after a long civil war and to bring reconciliation to the Lebanese factions. Israel followed suit and invaded Lebanon under the slogan of Peace for Galilee but this invasion later proved to be a war against peace and a means of occupying Lebanon by military force. The multinational peace force in Lebanon was sent to the country under the pretext of establishing peace, but we see that the Americans and others are being gradually drawn into the factional war thus undermining the peace for which they had been sent to establish. Likewise the Lebanese government is now launching a campaign in the mountains with the hope of establishing peace while the Syrians and their allies still believe that the key to the solution of the Lebanese crisis lies in the use of force.

The situation is becoming more and more difficult and complicated because the Soviets are indirectly involved in the war through their Syrian allies and the Americans are directly involved through the Beirut government and the Falangists. Thus the conflict in Lebanon has become internationalised and the problem has become more difficult to solve due to the conflicting interests of those parties involved indirectly or directly. Foreign intervention is bound to prevent any reconciliation among the Lebanese and this has so far constituted an obstacle to real peace in Lebanon.

Cairo said to maintain cold cheek at Tel Aviv

By Hamza Hendawi

CAIRO — One year after Cairo recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv to protest against Israeli actions in Lebanon, Egyptian-Israeli relations are still frozen and an imminent thaw seems unlikely.

During that year, Egypt's government and press have kept up criticism of Israeli policies which, in the eyes of many Egyptians, have largely thwarted the image of "peace" that arose out of the 1979 peace treaty between the two former enemies.

The Egyptian government, describing relations with the Jewish state as "cold peace", is keeping official contact with Israel at minimum level. Visits to Israel in the near future by senior Egyptian officials have been ruled out by the government.

Cairo says its ambassador, recalled on Sept. 20 last year, will not return before Israel offers a timetable for the removal of its forces from Lebanon.

But sources close to the Egyptian government say Cairo will not send back the envoy before Israel abandons its policies in occupied Arab territories, often described by officials as repressive and racist, and creates a more favourable atmosphere for a comprehensive settlement in the area.

Israeli sources say the absence of an Egyptian ambassador in Israel is contributing to what they call the negative atmosphere between the two countries.

"The presence of an ambassador is essential to the continuation of a dialogue, it is all the more important when you have differences of opinion on one matter or another," an Israeli source told Reuters.

Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, Boutros Boutros Ghali, also said the presence of an ambassador in Tel Aviv was vital. "I hope Israel would take mea-

sures which will make this possible," he told Reuters.

But Egyptian analysts say Israel is attaching undue importance to the issue.

"What could the presence of an ambassador in Israel do to improve relations between Egypt and Israel?" said Sayed Yassin, director of the semi-official Centre for Political and Strategic Studies.

"Israel's insistence that an ambassador should be sent back at a time when its actions are reminiscent of those of the pre-peace era is aimed at embarrassing Egypt in the Arab camp."

Mr. Yassin recalled Israel's bombing of an Iraqi nuclear reactor in June 1981, its annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights later in the same year and the invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

Despite cool relations, Egypt appears keen to prevent ties with Israel from hitting rock bottom as it wants to show other Arab states that "peace" with Israel can pay, analysts say.

Cairo also wants to preserve U.S. economic and political support, they say.

Washington provides Egypt with annual aid of around \$2.3 billion under an economic and military assistance programme adopted in the mid 1970's largely as a reward for its "peace" policies with Israel.

During the past few weeks, President Hosni Mubarak and senior figures in his government held talks with former Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman and Israel's Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Shortly after Mr. Weizman's visit, Mr. Ghali said his country was seeking what he called new channels of dialogue with Israel.

Mr. Weizman's popularity with Egyptian leaders for his moderate views was underlined by his talks with Mr. Mubarak, three meetings with Mr. Ghali and a working lun-

cheon with Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali.

Mr. Weizman's visit was followed by that of Mr. Modai who came at the invitation of Egypt's minister of petroleum, Ezzedin Hilal.

Mr. Mubarak's talks with Mr. Weizman were not reported in the Egyptian press and news of his meeting with Mr. Modai were confined to short items in the inside pages of the Cairo press.

Israeli sources, already critical of Egyptian press attitude to their country, thought its coverage was "improper".

"The press in Egypt has a role to play, which is peace education. When people read what the press was to say about Israel, the first thing they will ask is: Are these the people who we have peace with?" said one Israeli source.

Since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Egyptian press has been sharply critical of Israel's policies, depicting its outgoing Prime Minister Menachem Begin as blood-thirsty and a warmonger.

Israeli practices in Lebanon and occupied territories were likened to Nazi atrocities.

A leading figure in the Egyptian press believes the attitude of the press towards Israel is a reaction to what he said was "Israel's illusion that it enjoys a special status in Egypt with certain privileges."

Makram Mohamed Ahmed, editor of Egypt's leading political weekly Al-Mussawwar, said there was no longer any reason for news of a visit by Mr. Modai to be on the front pages.

"Dozens of ministers come to Egypt every day, do they all get to the front pages?"

Commenting on what Israeli sources said was a biased treatment of Israel in the Egyptian press, Mr. Ahmed said that apart from a new angry and irrational articles, Israel has largely been dealt with "objectively."

Power-hungry Owen claims opposition leadership

By Barry May

Reuter

LONDON — Hungry for power, former Foreign Secretary David Owen is asserting himself as a leader of Britain's political opposition and hoping to be seen as a plausible future prime minister.

The glaring paradox, and Mr. Owen's pressing handicap, is that his two-year-old centre-left Social Democratic Party has all the appearances of a one-man band. It has also only a tiny representation in parliament.

Mr. Owen, 45, took over the party leadership from veteran ex-cabinet minister Roy Jenkins in the wake of the general election

that returned Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative administration to power last June.

Recently, Mr. Owen, who likes to lead from the front, steered his party gently rightwards at its annual conference.

A medical doctor appointed foreign secretary in the last Labour government when he was 38, Mr. Owen now stands head and shoulders above the rest of his minority party.

He enjoys a substantial political reputation, enhanced by his performance during parliamentary debates on last year's war with Argentina over the disputed Falkland Islands, and his comments on the issues of the day are ex-

amined carefully.

The political commentators and editorial writers who shape public opinion regard Mr. Owen as a formidable shrewd politician and sense he has the aura of a man of destiny.

Three months after the landslide election that swept Mrs. Thatcher into power with a mandate to govern for the next five years, British politics are at a watershed.

Her new right-wing administration, backed by an unassailable majority of 145 in the 650-seat House of Commons, is secure. But to the left of her, a drastic realignment is taking place among the opposition forces.

A new generation of politicians

in their forties is taking over and jockeying for position to assume the role of chief challenger to the prime minister, who will be 58 next month.

The opposition Labour Party, which sank to its worst election result in 60 years, looks like picking Neil Kinnock, a 41-year-old leftwinger untested by experience in public office. To replace its retiring leader Michael Foot, 69.

The Liberals, who contested the election in alliance with the Social Democrats, have David Steel, 45, at their helm. But he, like every Liberal leader since Prime Minister David Lloyd-George 61 years ago, lacks government experience.

Anxious to show the Social Democrats under new management at last week's conference in Manchester, Mr. Owen restated their founding commitment to an open, classless and more equal society. But he shifted the emphasis of their economic and industrial policy towards a more free-market approach.

Then he quickly went on the offensive against Mrs. Thatcher.

Describing his party as more self-confident, he said the prime minister's political free ride was now over.

"It is not going to be ever the same again. She has had her way too long in British politics," Mr. Owen told a news conference.

He also attacked the domination of parliamentary debating time by the two major parties, declaring:

"The old carve-up between Labour and Conservatives, and the conspiracy that pretends that nothing has changed, is not going to wear. That whole cosy relationship is over now."

Most commentators agree the political situation has changed. But Mr. Owen's immediate problem is that his party lacks clout. It

holds a paltry six seats in parliament, compared with the Conservatives' 395, Labour's 207, and the Liberals' 17.

In successfully countering moves by a minority in the alliance who favoured a Liberal-Social Democrat merger, Mr. Owen has preserved his party's separate identity in the hope of winning over more disaffected Labour members.

He is wooing the unions after the trades union movement showed sentiment for a slackening of its traditional bonds with a Labour Party seemingly unable to shake off its malaise.

Party President Shirley Williams said some unions responded positively to an invitation to talks with the Social Democrats.

Peter Shore, Labour's eco-

nomics spokesman and an outsider in the leadership race, has warned his party that it is now locked in combat with the Social Democrats and it could be the end of the road for British socialism.

Deputy Labour leader Denis Healey, who will step down with Foot next month, describes his party's image as one based on disunity, extremism, crankiness and unfitness to govern.

The Economist magazine says that under Mr. Kinnock's leadership, Labour could enter a terminal phase over the next two years.

And the Daily Mail, which supports Mrs. Thatcher's government, rates Mr. Owen as "the only man now in serious training to take on the prime minister on her own terms."

LETTERS

Overlooked facts

To the Editor:

The book review by Mr. Rami Khouri on Iain Brown's book "Jerash And The Decapolis", published in your paper on Wednesday Sept. 14, does the book justice.

There are only two facts that Mr. Khouri has overlooked in his review although he very well knows about them.

1- The price of the book he quotes is wrong; he must presumably be talking of the paperback edition, the retail price of which is JD 4.500 and not JD 5.000.

2- This paperback edition was especially printed for Jordan Distribution Agency by Chabot & Windus, and it would have been only fair if Mr. Khouri gave us some credit for that, especially that he had known this fact, and more so, it was printed on the book's cover.

R. Elissa
General Manager,
Jordan Distribution Agency,
Amman



Remember, it's

Israel eliminating all hopes for future settlement

"We are at five minutes to midnight", so says Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. He is referring to Israel's settlement programme in the occupied Palestinian territories which is rapidly accomplishing the incorporation of these areas into Israel, displacing the indigenous Arab population in the process. The last bargaining chip in future Israeli-Palestinian negotiations is being eliminated, and with it all hopes for a future peace settlement in the Middle East.

Since Israel's invasion of Lebanon, and the launch of President Reagan's Middle East peace plan calling for a halt to Israeli settlement and the return of the occupied territories to Arab control, Israeli expropriation of and construction in these areas has been speeded up to an unprecedented level. The final stages of the plan for the de facto annexation of the last remaining areas of Palestine are being implemented. It is a process far removed from the first hill-top settlements manned by heavily armed religious or ideological fanatics; what is happening now is the wholesale transfer eastwards of a sizable portion of the Israeli middle class, bringing with them roads, schools, factories, the infrastructure, in

fact, of a modern state. All the amenities and attractions of an affluent society are being made available — so long as you're Jewish. For Palestinians, and a growing number of concerned Israelis, the project spells imminent disaster.

In November last year, the settlement department of the World Zionist Organisation (WZO) announced a plan that would more than double the West Bank's current Jewish population of around 250,000 to over 600,000 by the middle of this year, entailing the building of 6,000 new housing units. This, however, is only the early stages of the WZO plan which the Israeli government has begun to implement, and which aims to have between 100,000 and 130,000 Jews in the West Bank by 1987, or earlier. According to Time magazine (Jan. 17, 1983) Israeli planners reckon to spend about \$600 million on the scheme over the next year or two. But this is only the relatively modest preliminary step in an overall plan whose aim, as Ze'ev Ben Yosef of the World Zionist Organisation settlement department explained in the Times (Nov. 11, 1982), is to settle 1.4 million Jews in the West Bank by the year 2011.

The West Bank's current Jewish population of around 250,000 is housed in over 100 settlements.

According to Israeli journalist Dany Rubenstein writing in Davar (Nov. 12, 1982), 70 new settlements have been established or begun since Menachem Begin was re-elected in the summer of 1981. That represents an unprecedented rate of settlement compared to the first 14 years of Israeli occupation, but pales into insignificance in terms of the plans outlined above. How will the Israeli government acquire the land, and find the finance and incentives to bring such a staggering number of settlers into the West Bank in so short a period?

Land

In truth there is no legitimate way for Israel to pursue its settlement policy on occupied Arab land. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, of which Israel is a signatory, explicitly states that "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer part of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." U.N. General Assembly Resolution 3019A (1973) affirmed that the Fourth Geneva Convention "applies to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967". No state voted against this resolution, and five abstained (Bolivia, Costa Rica, Malawi, Nicaragua and Israel).

Britain, Russia and the United States all voted in favour of the resolution.

Israel adopted a number of stratagems to "legitimise" its programme of dispossessing Arab landowners. In the West Bank these were: The seizure of "absentee" property — i.e. land whose Arab owners temporarily fled or were driven off in the 1967 war — and leasing it to settlers; assuming control of land registered as state domain, i.e. in the name of the Treasury of Jordan or of the King, and leasing it to settlers; closing off land for military purposes, such as training grounds or security zones, on what was described as a temporary basis, and then "requisitioning" it and leasing it for settlements (this was how the township of Qiryat Arba near Hebron created — it is now a centre for militant Jewish activism and the scene of frequent armed violence by settlers against Arabs); the authorities also expropriated land outright for "vital and immediate military requirements".

It was not until 1980 that the Israeli government hit upon the scheme, described by a Ha'areiz editorial at the time as "mockery and robbery", which opened up the way for land expropriation on the scale needed for the mass settlement drive now under way.

Having discovered that only a tiny percentage of land in the West Bank had been fully surveyed, with titles to clear ownership established and "duly registered" — most land rights had traditionally been determined by Islamic codes and through customary usage — Decree No. 59 was issued by the military regime. This stated that "land with no ownership claims is to be considered state land" on the basis of an ancient land statute in force when the region was ruled by the Ottoman Sultan.

"State land", it has been shown, means for the exclusive use of Israel's Jewish citizens. A recent study, the West Bank Data Base Project, conducted by the former Israeli deputy mayor of Jerusalem, Meiron Benvenisti, has found that this subterfuge has allowed the Begin government to gain access for the purposes of settlement to between 55 and 65 per cent of the West Bank, or about 797,000 to 942,000 acres. Ze'ev Ben Yosef of the WZO settlement department goes further, having told the Jerusalem Post (Jan. 9, 1982) that 70 per cent of the land falls into this category.

Whatever means the Israeli authorities choose to "legitimise" this massive land grab matters little to the Palestinian farmer sum-

marily evicted from the land he and his family have tended for generations. The first he is likely to know about it is the rapid erection of a fence barring him from his own property, followed by the arrival of bulldozers to destroy his crops and eradicate all traces of the land's former inhabitants. The law generously allows 21 days to appeal against the expropriation hut, as Mr. Benvenisti explains, "ninety-five per cent of the land cases brought by land-owners in the West Bank are rejected by the High Court which is connected to the government".

Finance

Huge sums of money are needed to finance Israel's settlement programme in the occupied territories. Ha'areiz reported (Dec. 30, 1982) that the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Michael Dekel, had told the Knesset's economic committee that the total cost of settling one family in the West Bank was in the range of 4-5 million shekels, or about £95,000.

According to Mr. Benvenisti, the yearly budget allocated by the Israeli government to the 25,000 settlers in the West Bank is \$200 million (as a point of comparison, the civilian budget for the 800,000 Palestinians in the West Bank was

\$14.6 million in 1980 — New York Times, (Nov. 2, 1982).

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) calculates that for all the occupied territories, \$500 million is spent every year on the construction of new settlements. With inflation running at 130 per cent, a balance of payments deficit that reached \$5 billion at the end of 1982, and a total foreign debt in the region of \$25 billion, it is strange that the Israeli government can find so much spare cash to invest in grandiose settlement projects.

Stranger still, when Israel's own cities are in desperate need of new housing. In January this year an Oriental Jew, Shimon Yehoshua, was shot dead by police in Tel Aviv during riots sparked off by the local municipality's attempts to demolish an unauthorised addition to his family's home.

The 30th Zionist Congress held in Jerusalem last December degenerated into a brawl after Oriental Jews, who constitute the majority of Israel's population, protested against their social deprivation, and the fact that funds from abroad were being diverted for the benefit of Jews of European origin (settlement in the luxury villas springing up in the West Bank is almost exclusively a

"white" middle class phenomenon).

The question of how Israel, its crisis-ridden economy further debilitated by a long and costly war, estimated to have cost \$2.2 billion so far and another \$59 million a month (Al Ha'mishmar, March 4, 1983), can afford to increase investment in settlement so steeply, is not difficult to answer: The bill is being sent to the American taxpayer.

Last autumn the U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) undertook a full-scale investigation into the amount of foreign aid the U.S. supplies yearly to Israel. It discovered large amounts of "hidden aid", and estimated that since 1974 total U.S. aid to Israel may be as high as \$30 billion, i.e. U.S. taxpayers have been sending Israel \$9 million a day for the past nine years.

Aid to Israel constitutes more than 34 per cent of America's total foreign aid bill, although Israel hardly falls into the category of a "developing country".

Despite a public show of American displeasure over Israel's invasion of Lebanon, American aid to Israel was in fact substantially increased after the war.

— CAABU Information Service

Archaeologists get chance to investigate Beirut's past

By John Munro

BEIRUT — As international diplomacy falters in its efforts to secure the removal of foreign armies from Lebanon, further delaying the reconstruction of downtown Beirut, at least the archaeologists can find some consolation.

They have a spectacular opportunity to investigate the city's remote past, and the Lebanese government has recently provided LL. 5 million (\$1.06 million) to assist them. So far, full details have not been released with respect to the actual disbursement of these funds, but the Lebanese University, St. Joseph's University and the American University of Beirut are all expected to participate in an archaeological survey of the centre of the city, assisted by several international experts.

In many respects Beirut offers exciting possibilities for such a survey. Not only has the city been

a continuously occupied settlement for several millennia, but two major earthquakes in the fourth and fifth centuries A.D. virtually demolished ancient Beirut, effectively sealing off its past history and forcing the inhabitants to build anew on the remains of the old. Now that it is possible to excavate beneath the layer of medieval city, archaeologists believe they will soon be able to determine in more precise detail the earlier history of Beirut.

Lebanese archaeologist Dr. Leila Badre is understandably delighted by the opportunity, noting that most of what is presently known about the Phoenician, Hellenic, Roman and Byzantine periods of Beirut's development derives from external sources. Emir Maurice Chehab, Director of Lebanon's department of antiquities, is also jubilant and is convinced that among other discoveries, at last it will be possible to discover the exact location of Beirut's famous law school, which

reached the climax of its importance during the Byzantine period. He claims that he is "almost one hundred per cent sure" that it was situated in an area somewhere between the old Serail and the Bourj.

A review of history

Reviewing Beirut's ancient history, Dr. Badre notes that several Paleolithic and Neolithic settlements have been discovered on the northern and southern sides of the Ras Beirut promontory, where careful pedestrians may still find flints dating from the Stone Age in the region of Pigeon Rock.

Later, on the opposite side of the promontory, a harbour and a city were created in Pre-Hellenic times, which eventually fell into ruin, forming a "tell" on which a subsequent settlement was built in the region between the port and the Place des Canons. Across this area there flowed a stream, the ancient Khandak, Al Ghamik, fed

by the Ras Al Nab'a spring — now incorporated into the city's sewage system — making it ideal in every respect for the expansion of the city. Successors of Alexander the Great occupied it, and by Roman times it had become an important cultural and trading centre.

With respect to evidence uncovered in Beirut dating back to the second millennium B.C., when Egypt had extended its influence as far as Lebanon, archaeologists in 1926 uncovered a sphinx inscribed with the name of Amenemhat IV in the region of the main post office, and in 1954 near the same site three tombs were discovered which yielded evidence relating to the region of Ramesses II.

After the collapse of the Egyptian empire to the twelfth century B.C., the Persians assumed control, and then after the battle of Issus in 333 B.C. the Greeks moved in. In 83 B.C. the states forming the Seleucid empire in-

ited the Armenian King Tigranes to govern Phoenicia, who ruled until 63 B.C., at which time the Romans asserted their claim. A year later Pompey had settled the Roman province of Syria, and in 42 B.C. Mark Antony became master of the East after defeating the forces of Brutus and Cassius at the battle of Philippi. He determined to establish for himself and Cleopatra an empire in the East, while his brother-in-law Octavian patiently consolidated his power in Rome. Antony then made Herod a tetrarch and persuaded the Roman senate to declare him King of Judaea.

In the meantime, Cleopatra had persuaded Antony to bring all the cities of Phoenicia under her control, including Beirut, or Berytus, as it was then known. However, Octavian's power was growing, and after the battle of Actium in 31 B.C., which resulted in the defeat and subsequent suicide of both Antony and Cleopatra, he assumed the name Augustus and be-

towed on Beirut Roman rights and privileges, including the *ius Italicum*, which exempted the inhabitants from paying taxes.

Later, Herod Agrippa I, grandson of Herod the Great, lavished money on the development of the city, and according to the historian Josephus constructed a theatre, an amphitheatre, baths and porticoes into which neither the size nor the beauty of these works were hampered by lack of funds. Herod Agrippa II was equally generous, adorning the city with statues and replicas of ancient sculptures.

During the late Roman period Beirut acquired its reputation as a centre of learning, its law school eventually receiving the imperial *privilegium*, which put it on equal footing with similar schools in Constantinople and Rome.

During the Byzantine period it reached the height of its prestige under the reign of Justinian (527-565), professors from the law school assisting the emperor in

compiling and drafting the famous Justinian Code, which embodies the basic principles of law in all Western societies.

Undoubtedly, the focus of archaeological attention is now Beirut's School of Law, whose foundations Mr. Chehab is confident will soon be discovered. His optimism is based partly on archaeological evidence brought to light as recently as 1977. At that time, during a prolonged lull in fighting, the Lebanese department of antiquities under the direction of Dr. Sami Kawakabi and assisted by the French Institute of Archaeology, undertook a series of soundings in the vicinity of the old municipality building to determine the exact location of the law school.

Altogether, of the 20 soundings that were opened, more than half yielded positive results, even though investigation was at that time hampered by certain conditions laid down by the Lebanese government so as to ensure the pre-

servation of utility lines and sewage pipes. After further rounds of fighting downtown, however, it is now no longer necessary to observe such constraints on excavation, and local archaeologists are confident that it is only a matter of time before their digging reveals conclusive evidence of the law school's location.

The best interests of the state are most likely to be served by the creation of a vital commercial and social centre, in which members of all Lebanon's communities may freely mix in the preservation of the historical past. Even so, he says, what he would like to see is "the creation of archaeological squares in the business centre, each surrounded by trees, each turned into a tourist attraction."

In this way, he believes, archaeology would not only demonstrate Beirut's glorious past but also play an important role in the country's future. — Middle East Times, Cyprus

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SPORTS

WBC sets up medical research programme

NEW YORK (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC), announced it is providing \$100,000 for initial funding of a research programme directed at the treatment and prevention of sports injuries.

The Scientific Programme of Athletic Research (SPAR) will be administered by the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine. WBC President Jose Sulaiman said at a press conference.

"We are asking for help to find better ways to protect the fighters," Sulaiman said. "Boxing is behind other sports in sports medicine."

Sulaiman will present the check to Dr. Gerald Finerman, sports medicine director at UCLA, at a dinner Wednesday night celebrating the 20th anniversary of the fight organisation.

In addition to the \$100,000 gift, the WBC will also help in fund raising for the project which Finerman said he hoped would operate on a budget of \$500,000 a year.

CONDOLANCES

The directors and staff of Electro Mechanical International, EMI, wish to express condolences to Mrs. Lynn Barclay for the recent sad loss

of her husband Steve.

As a friend and colleague he will be sadly missed.

TIME

INSIDE THE NEW CHINA
NEW CURRENTS IN AN ANCIENT LAND
RETURN TO THE MIDDLE KINGDOM (report on China by Theodore White)
SOARE TO EEC: "We are tired of waiting" (Portugal's leader)
TENSIONS IN WEST GERMANY (peace activists demonstrate against U.S. presence)
U.S. RECOVERY: Good through '84 (report of time economists)

Australia II on brink of defeat

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Liberty, leading throughout, beat Australia II by 43 seconds Tuesday to take a 3-1 lead and move within one victory of clinching the America's Cup for the United States for the 26th successive time.

The defeat put the challenger in the position of having to win three consecutive races if it is to break the 132-year-old U.S. grasp on the cup.

Avenge a one-sided three minute and 14 seconds loss to Australia II on Sunday, Liberty skipper Dennis Conner out sailed the challenger in the pre-start sequence to gain a critical advantage and held the lead throughout the 24.5-mile course on Rhode Island Sound.

Australia II, skippered by John Bertrand, was never able to mount a serious challenge, even though winds were much lighter than forecast and the challenger fares best in light air.

Liberty's margin of victory was slimmer than in its two previous triumphs when it won by one minute 10 seconds and one minute 33 seconds.

But it was perhaps more significant, since Australia II had been plagued by equipment problems in both those races, which may have cost it two victories.

Also, in winning the first two races of the series, Liberty had

been forced to come from behind.

But there was never any doubt about the outcome on Tuesday, even though Australia II stayed within striking distance throughout on an unseasonably hot, sunny day.

Liberty's skilful manoeuvres in the pre-start sequence, along with a judicious use of sails and covering tactics, appeared to be the key factors in the triumph.

Although conditions were comparable to Sunday, when Australia II devastated Liberty and bolstered Australian hopes, the Australian yacht never was able to demonstrate its speed shown in winning the third race.

Taking advantage of a wind shift, Liberty crossed Australia II's bow at the end of the pre-race sequence and went over the start on port tack six seconds ahead.

Liberty quickly widened its lead early in the first, four-mile upwind leg. Three times on the leg, the defender crossed the challenger's bow, increasing its lead each time before reaching the first mark with a 36-second lead.

It was the first time in the series that Liberty had led at the end of the first leg.

With the wind picking up slightly, the defender gained another 12 seconds on the second leg, the first of two reaching runs in which the wind blows across the side of

each boat.

After rounding the marker with a 48-second lead, Liberty maintained that edge through the third leg. Australia II switched spinnakers for the third time during the leg and used her staysail, but was unable to narrow the gap as Liberty held on to a 48-second advantage.

Bertrand tried to provoke Liberty into several tacking duels on the fourth leg, the second of three windward runs. But Conner refused to fall for that ploy, choosing instead to apply loose covers from both the port and starboard sides.

For the first time, Australia II gained ground, but only a scant two seconds as Liberty circled the fourth marker buoy 46 seconds ahead.

Though the challenger is supposed to be most vulnerable downwind, she had devastated Liberty on that fifth leg Sunday, picking up one minute and 32 seconds. But on Tuesday Australia II was able to gain only 10 seconds on the downwind run. That left the challenger trailing by 35 seconds — and about seven boat lengths — as the yachts rounded the fifth mark and headed upwind for the finish line.

Early in the leg, Australia II was forced to tack off because of wash from the spectator fleet of about

500 pleasure craft. And that manoeuvre cost her several valuable seconds.

The Australian 12-metre managed to get to windward of Liberty at the top of the leg, with both yachts on a port tack.

But that failed to produce any advantage as Liberty maintained its lead easily to cross the line 43 seconds ahead.

Lendl has easy time in Transamerica Open

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Second-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia crushed U.S. amateur Steve de Vries 6-2, 6-1 Tuesday night in the first round of the \$235,000 Transamerica Open Tennis Tournament.

Lendl won the first 10 points of the match before de Vries took a point on a Lendl mistake.

Lendl, runner-up to American Jimmy Connors in the recent U.S. Open, said de Vries, 18, was nervous at the beginning and "I didn't want to give him any chances."

De Vries said he had always wanted to know "What it's like to play someone of Lendl's caliber. It's very frustrating."

Earlier, Fritz Buehning eliminated fellow-American Brian Teacher in another first-round match.

The six-foot-five-inch (two metres) Buehning, two inches (five cms) taller and 20 pounds (nine kgs) heavier than the unseeded Teacher, got the service break he needed in the seventh game of the third set and went on to wrap up the match.

Teacher looked like setting up a win in the early stages. He broke Buehning's serve for a 5-4 lead in the first set, then took the set out by holding his own serve at love.

He broke serve again in the second set for a 4-3 lead. But Buehning bounced back, broke in to make it 4-4 and then held on to set up the tie-breaker.

Buehning brushed through the third set. Teacher lost his usually reliable volley touch at crucial points and was outplayed by his opponents' powerful serves and accurate passing shots.

South Africa's Vermaak upset in U.S. tennis

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — Kim Sands of the United States scored an upset 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 win over fourth seed Yvonne Vermaak of South Africa in the first round of a \$150,000 tennis tournament on Tuesday.

Sands, ranked 79th in the world, won the match with the help of two Vermaak errors at deuce in the final game.

Vermaak, a semifinalist at Wimbledon and ranked 35th in the world, had a chance to wrap up the match in the second set when she served at 5-4. But she could not hold her delivery.

American Barbara Potter, who

took over the top seed spot when Martina Navratilova withdrew from the tournament last week, easily beat American Elise Burgin, 6-2, 6-2, in another first-round match.

In other first-round matches, fifth seed Rosalyn Fairbank of South Africa beat Sue Leo of Australia, 6-1, 6-3; eighth seed Pam Casale of the United States beat Lena Sandin of Sweden, 6-2, 6-3; American Kim Shaefer beat American Rosie Casals, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; and Julie Harrington beat Felicia Raschiatore, 6-4, 6-4, in another All-American match.

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ECONOMY

OPEC may lift oil output ceiling

NEW YORK (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) market monitoring committee meeting on Oct. 27 will consider raising the group's total crude oil output quota by one million barrels a day for the fourth quarter only, Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW) said.

The New York-based newsletter said some participants at last week's meeting of the committee in Vienna believed there was a 50-50 chance that such a recommendation would be made at next month's gathering, also scheduled for Vienna.

PIW said the committee was considering calling a special OPEC meeting to raise the output ceiling of 17.5 million barrels daily set in March to help overcome weak demand.

The committee, comprising representatives from Algeria, Indonesia, Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), oversees observance of quotas agreed by the whole group.

Committee chairman Mr. Mana Said Al Otaiba recommended last week that OPEC should stick to the present quota to the end of the second quarter of 1984 to give time for the U.S. and Japanese economies to recover to help boost demand, PIW said.

PIW said OPEC's total output for the third quarter, ending this month, was likely to be 18.3 million barrels daily, adding that last week's meeting named the UAE, Nigeria, Iran and Saudi Arabia as violating their quotas in the quarter.

World trade likely to grow by 3-4%

HAMBURG (R) — World trade is likely to grow by three to four per cent in 1984 following stronger than expected recovery in the United States and the more gradual economic revival elsewhere in the industrial world, the Hamburg-based HWWA economic research institute said.

World demand for oil and other commodities is already rising, and higher commodity prices should gradually ease the pressure on developing countries' external trade positions and improve their buying power, it said in its fortnightly review.

This should have beneficial effects for industrial exporters, including West Germany whose trade surplus could rise as high as 60 billion marks (\$22 billion) next year after remaining stable this year at around the 1982 level of 51.3 billion marks (\$19 billion) it said.

West Germany's terms of trade are expected to worsen in the second half of this year, due to higher prices for imported raw materials and strong competition in export markets.

Growth in West German trade next year is likely to be broadly in line with world trade generally.

China likely to join global trade group

GENEVA (R) — China, the world's largest textile producer, is likely to succeed in its bid to join the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), which governs most of the world's trade in textiles and clothing, according to trade sources here.

During talks this week, the European Community told a Chinese delegation it welcomed its application for membership, expected to be made formally in December, and would support it, the sources said.

The Chinese have said they are prepared to accept without reservation all the provisions of the MFA, they said.

Joining it will be China's first major step into the world of multilateral trading arrangements since its membership of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) lapsed more than 30 years ago.

On Friday the Chinese group will meet U.S. trade ambassador Mr. Peter Murphy who, according to diplomatic sources, will tell them Washington also has no objection to Peking's membership of the MFA, which was negotiated under the auspices of the Geneva-based GATT in 1974. It has been renewed several times and expires in July, 1986.

London, Bonn financial plan faces stiff E.C. opposition

BRUSSELS (R) — Britain and West Germany, the European Community's (E.C.) main paymasters, have run into stiff opposition in their efforts to overhaul the E.C.'s battered finances.

After a new round of talks between foreign and finance ministers from the 11-nation bloc Tuesday officials said Bonn and London appeared isolated in their demands for savage cuts in subsidies paid to eight million farmers.

Instead France led a move to offer Britain temporary cuts in its hefty payments to the Brussels budget, while rejecting a fundamental restructuring of the community's finances.

French Finance Minister Jacques Delors told journalists that he backed a Danish plan for a new fund to end Britain's constant rows with its partners over its budget.

Mr. Delors said it could also pave the way for a major expansion of joint policies to pull the community out of economic recession and boost investment in new technologies.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe called for a speedy and permanent end to what he called constant wrangling over Britain's too-high budget contributions.

Mr. Howe, backed by West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, said the only solution lay in tough controls on farm spending and a new system of payments to the budget.

get payments.

The plan, which also found varying degrees of support from Italy, Greece, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, would avoid savage cuts in the community's farm budget.

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The officials said the deep split which had now emerged suggested badly for a planned agreement on financial reform at an Athens summit meeting of community leaders at the end of December.

Norway signs first oil deal with Israel

STAVANGER, Norway (R) — Norway's state oil company, Statoil, has signed its first agreement to supply Israel with North Sea crude oil, a Statoil spokesman said Tuesday.

Israel at present imports about two-thirds of its oil supplies from Mexico and Egypt, and buys most of the remainder on the spot market.

The spokesman said the contract was for 500,000 tonnes of crude oil to be supplied at world market prices, currently about \$51 million Norwegian kroner (\$115 million).

He added that the amount of oil covered by the contract represented about five per cent of the crude available to Statoil from North Sea production this year, and would be delivered to Rotterdam for forwarding to Israel.

The deal is likely to be controversial in Norway, where opinions are sharply divided on Israel's policies in the Middle East, political observers said.

The question of Norwegian oil sales to Israel was first raised by former prime minister Mr. Menachem Begin when he visited Oslo in 1978 to receive peace prize, the observers said.

But the Labour government then in power turned the request down, because it said Norway did not have any surplus crude oil available, they added.

The Statoil spokesman denied the deal with Israel was connected with the appointment of Mr. Kaare Kristiansen, a strong supporter of Israel, as oil and energy minister last June.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Government bonds closed firm on mounting hopes of a cut in clearing banks' base rate, but equities ended mixed after another dull trading day, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 1.7 at 706.9.

Bonds ended with gains of up to ½ point in long dates after firming in late morning on rumours a base rate cut was imminent. The market held the gains despite action by the Bank of England, which, by holding its money market dealing rates unchanged, appeared to resist a move to lower rates at present.

Leading equities failed to reflect the gains on Wall Street, ending mixed but with a firm undertone. Golds were lower.

Leading industrials had Bowater up 5p at 21½, ICI 2p higher at 533 and Glaxo down 20p at 885. Electricals were generally lower with GEC down 2p at 194 Rascal down 8p at 206. Among companies with results published Wednesday were RTZ up 8p at 647 after 654, BATS up 3p at 137 and RMC group up 12p at 362.

Oil leaders were generally lower with Shell down 6p at 612, although B.P. remained unchanged at 426 ahead of Friday's share sale. Hong Kong shares extended Tuesday's recovery.

In after hours, supplies of 10 per cent treasury 1987 TAP stock were exhausted at £20½. Index linked stocks were also firm and the treasury 2½ 2001 issue was exhausted around midday.

E.C. demands that Japan ups imports

TOKYO (R) — The European Community (E.C.) launched a major diplomatic offensive Tuesday to demand that Japan increase imports of manufactured goods and cut the growing imbalance in its trade with Europe.

Ambassadors of all 10 community states and representatives of the European commission visited Japanese Trade Minister Sosuke Uno to tell him anti-Japanese feeling was growing in Europe because the rise in imports from Japan was threatening jobs in competitive industries.

In 1982 Japan exported goods worth \$9.52 billion more than it imported from the community and by the end of August the imbalance for the first eight months of 1983 reached \$6.75 billion, an eight per cent rise over the same period in 1982.

Economists say Japan could chalk up a trade surplus with all its trade partners at least \$30 billion in 1983.

Referring to the trade imbalance, Mr. Laurens Brinkhorst, head of the community commission delegation in Japan, told reporters after the meeting: "There is no room for optimism, certainly the figures do not show any improvement."

The Japanese government is considering measures to increase imports, including incentive schemes to induce Japanese companies to buy more overseas goods.

Mr. Constantinos Lyberopoulos, Greek ambassador to Japan, who led the delegation, said Mr. Uno did not have any immediate reaction except to say the Japanese government continued to look for ways to stimulate imports and he welcomed suggestions.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.5053/63	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2320/23	Canadian dollars
	2.6652/62	West German marks
	2.9805/15	Dutch guilders
	2.1590/60	Swiss francs
	33.81/85	Belgian francs
	8.0585/615	French francs
	1601.25/1602.00	Italian lire
	242.33/43	Japanese yen
	7.8660/711	Swedish crowns
	7.4025/75	Norwegian crowns
	9.5675/725	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	411.75/412.25	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

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Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HYBUS
KONET
PEKAUM
HINGAC

WHAT IT WAS FOR HIM WHEN THEY REPOSSESSED THE TV.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POACH GROOM ORIGIN RADIUM

Answer: What some comedians make—DOUGH OUT OF CORN

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning is by far the best time for you to place in effect both whatever conservative ideas that permeate your consciousness as well as whatever is extraordinary or progressive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You get excellent ideas and should quickly put them in motion so that you can grow and progress. Then make new contacts of worth.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Organizing the future more intelligently can bring you greater success and happiness. This also holds true for the one you love.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can make big headway toward gaining your most cherished wishes, so get an early start on them and persevere.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Keep focused on your civic and business outlets and accomplish a good deal today.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Be more willing to expand where your interests are concerned and make plans for trips you want to take.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Put those new ideas to work so that you can keep promises better and can feel more secure, satisfied.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Contacting bigwigs you know and gaining backing from them is wise today as well as forming an alliance with them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Adding new interests to your daily activities can bring greater success now. Socialize with friends tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Early make the appointments for entertainment in the evening. Later, concentrate on tasks at hand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to please those at home as well as yourself and have more harmony there. Loved ones need your attention.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can produce a great deal today and should get an early start on work ahead of you. Get in touch with bigwigs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Apply yourself seriously and you can have far more prosperity in the future, but use orthodox and positive methods.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one of those delightful young persons who can easily comprehend new trends in the world of activity, as well as know what others are aiming at, so be sure to give as fine an education as you can.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It is important to concentrate on your instincts today. They are right on the mark. Concentrate on career goals which seem to be shaping up well for you at this time.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Higher-ups expect a lot from you at this time. Make sure your day-to-day routines are in good, working order.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A new situation has arisen which requires some looking into on your part before acting on it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Exercise more patience and cooperation with co-workers. Loved ones need more of your attention also.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Confer with associates for better results in the future. It is important to reach agreements.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Plan to get your activities in order so you can gain the benefits involved. Concentrate on being more efficient.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan your weekend social events from the point of view of cost. It is important for you to exercise thrift.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Domestic affairs require more attention from you than you've been exercising. Extend social invitations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Handle correspondence early in the day. Later, devote your energies to smoothing over bad feelings with co-workers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Pay all outstanding bills today in order to clear up messy accounting. Later, be with good friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Look around your abode for possible improvements to be made, then do them. Use caution in motion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Outside influences are dangerous at this time. You need to be by yourself and get things on a firmer basis.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Spend time showing devotion to friends who've been neglected recently. Handle career matters also.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one of those charming young persons born with a natural ability to lead. There is a tendency toward rash judgments, so teach early to be more thoughtful and to think ahead. There is some talent here for music.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

WORLD

Police open fire as protesters march on Marcos' residence

MANILA (R) — Two people were killed and about 30 wounded Wednesday night as security forces clashed with thousands of demonstrators trying to force their way to the home of President Ferdinand Marcos, police said.

A Marine and a fireman died in the battle which raged back and forth for several hours within two kilometres of the presidential palace, they said.

The witnesses said several hundred police and soldiers sealed off the palace after the protesters marched on it from rallies in central Manila marking the 11th anniversary of the imposition of martial law and the murder one month ago of opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

The protesters were within two kilometres of the palace after setting fire to government buses parked across the road as a barricade, the witnesses said.

The crowd had pushed a burning mobile crane towards the ranks of anti-riot police, who were armed with shields, truncheons, and tear

gas and were backed up by water cannon.

Opposition politicians told about 100,000 people at Wednesday's rallies that the country would no longer tolerate what they called the loss of liberty, the exploitation of labour and the presence of alien bases.

Many placards and banners carried anti-American slogans and protesters burned effigies of Presidents Reagan and Marcos. Armed forces chief of staff Gen. Fabian Ver said police were prepared for any eventuality and warned students to guard their own ranks against subversives. He offered dialogue with organisers of the rallies to avoid disturbances.

Manila police chief Maj.-Gen. Prospero Olivas told reporters that demonstrators would be given every chance to exercise the freedom they were demanding.

Among the protesters in central Manila were Sen. Aquino's widow, Corason, and younger brother, Agapito.

President Marcos earlier appeared on national television to announce measures to improve what he called an embarrassing balance of payments deficit and criticised the opposition for jeopardising the country's stability. He has previously rejected opposition demands for his resignation.

Reagan defends record

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (R) — President Reagan has offered a sweeping defence of his record that read like a rehearsal for a 1984 re-election campaign speech.

Speaking at a fundraising dinner here for South Carolina's Republican Sen. Strom Thurmond, one of his firmest allies in Congress, Mr. Reagan said his administration had brought economic recovery and rebuilt America's military might.

Mr. Reagan said: "I believe one word sums up the difference between today and 1981: Hope. Hope is being reborn in America. A better future awaits us."

In 1981, in his successful campaign to oust then-President Jimmy Carter, one of Mr. Reagan's most effective gambits was to ask voters whether they felt they were better off than they had been four years earlier when Carter took office.

If Mr. Reagan decides to run again in 1984, as most of his aides expect, he can anticipate the same

type of query being aimed at him by the opposition Democrats. He and his Republican supporters have lately been taking steps to seize the advantage in that debate.

Mr. Reagan noted inflation has fallen from more than 12 per cent to less than five per cent since he took office, saying, "We've got a (economic) recovery train going."

On another possible campaign issue that might be sharpened by his restrained reaction to the Soviet shooting down of a South Korean airliner, Mr. Reagan referred to widespread perceptions in 1981 that U.S. standing had sharply declined in the world.

The 14-month captivity of U.S. hostages in Iran damaged Carter badly with U.S. voters.

"Under our administration this nation is through with hand-wringing and apologising," Mr. Reagan declared.

"I believe with all my heart that the U.S. is safer, stronger, and more secure today — both economically and militarily — than before."

Teenager finds fortune

HOLLYWOOD, Florida (R) — A teenage orphan became an instant millionaire when police deposited a bag of diamonds and other jewellery in a bank deposit in his name.

Eric Dewild, 16, found the jewels, valued at over \$1 million, scattered beside a railway track last March and handed them over to police.

Nobody claimed the cache of loose gems, rings, bracelets and brooches and, under Florida's "finders keepers" law, they became Dewild's property after six months.

Dewild was not present when Hollywood police formally announced the handover.

Because of publicity his find had already caused, his aunt and guardian Viodena Tost first asked for police protection. They then left town for a while.

"His aunt doesn't want his picture in the papers," a neighbour said, "in case someone wants to kidnap him and get a ransom."

Dewild himself told a reporter after he made the find: "If this stuff belongs to the mafia, they aren't going to claim it now. They're going to wait till I get it."

ASEAN to call for phased troop pullout from Kampuchea

BANGKOK (R) — Senior officials of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are working on a document linking aid to Kampuchea with a phased withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from the country, informed diplomatic sources said here Wednesday.

They said ASEAN — Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — would circulate the document among members of the United Nations before the General Assembly debate on Kampuchea.

The ASEAN appeal for a phased pullout would be accompanied by a specific aid pledge to be im-

plemented as soon as the departure of Vietnamese troops was confirmed by an international peace-keeping force, the sources said.

Western Kampuchea could be designated as the first area for Vietnamese troops to leave, they said.

Hanoi installed the Heng Samrin government in Phnom Penh in 1979 after the overthrow of the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge.

The sources said ASEAN would ask the U.N. secretariat to circulate its appeal as an open document to counter Hanoi's claims on the Kampuchean dispute.

Chilean unionist freed

SANTIAGO (R) — The leader of Chile's copper workers, Rodolfo Seguel, was released from prison Tuesday night a day after President Augusto Pinochet said he was dropping libel charges against him.

Mr. Seguel, freed on his 30th birthday, had been on hunger strike since a judge sent him to jail 11 days ago. He said he was being victimised for his role in organising anti-government protests.

His lawyer said that he had lost nine kg on a diet of mineral water, salt and sugar.

Gen. Pinochet said he had agreed to drop court action against Mr. Seguel, accused of defaming him in a newspaper interview, after a personal plea from the archbishop of Santiago, Juan Francisco Fresno.

The prelate passed on a letter from Mr. Seguel saying he did not intend to insult the president in the interview, in which he referred to him as an "absurd, fanatical and obstinate dictator."

State prosecutors had demanded life imprisonment for Cho. His case exposed the wealth of senior officials and politicians and led to demands from opposition members of parliament for details of how his victims, including former Deputy Premier Kim Joon-Sung, had amassed their fortunes.

Police said many of Cho's victims had not reported their losses, apparently to avoid disclosing their wealth.

2 die in Hell's Angels fight

SLOUGH, England (R) — A young girl stripped near-naked and staked to the ground by her arms and legs was the cause of a Hell's Angels bloodbath that ended with two people dead, according to police.

Detectives said someone produced a camera as men at the weekend motorcycle gang reunion in nearby Cookham, danced frenziedly around her performing

"bizarre sexual rites." This started a riot with clubs, knives and axes in which two men were stabbed to death and four others badly hurt.

Film found in debris at the police-fight site and developed by police showed the girl staked out on the grass Red Indian style. She is believed to be one of nearly 500 people at the gathering still being questioned by police.

62-kg gold nugget found

BRASILIA (R) — A Brazilian gold-digger has dug up a nugget weighing 62.3 kg (137 pounds), one of the biggest ever discovered, at Serra Pelada in the Amazon jungle, government officials have said.

The nugget, nicknamed Canaan, which is 80 per cent pure, was found by prospecter Julio de Deus Filho, who sold it to the government for just under \$1 million. According to the Guinness

Book of Records, the biggest gold nugget ever discovered weighed 70.92 kg (156.51 pounds), and was found in Victoria, Australia.

The Serra Pelada gold diggings, about 400 kilometres south west of Belem, were discovered three years ago. The site is to be closed for mechanisation on Nov. 15 and thousands of independent gold-diggers will be transferred to other parts of the Amazon basin.

Pentagon anti-tank system may not work, report says

WASHINGTON (R) — A costly new system to help NATO pilots locate and destroy Soviet tanks at night or in bad weather is unreliable and vulnerable to counter-measures, a recent Pentagon report says.

The report, by a committee of the defence science board which advises the secretary of defence, casts doubt on the effectiveness of the Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infra-Red System (LANTIRN), which the air force is developing.

LANTIRN would, in theory, allow North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) pilots to overcome a Soviet advantage in tanks by unleashing ultra-accurate missiles, guided to the heat emitted by Soviet tanks and detected by infra-red devices.

But the report says the system's ability to distinguish tanks from other objects in combat is poor. "The performance of the system, even at best, is likely to be fragile and susceptible to primitive counter-measures," it says.

A Pentagon official said simple counter-measures would include covering "hot spots" of tanks with canvas or branches.

The general accounting office, Congress's investigative arm, said last year that LANTIRN's est-

imated cost had nearly doubled in about a year from \$1 billion to 1.8 billion.

LANTIRN is already a controversial programme in Congress because of its cost, which some defence industry sources think may be higher than the general accounting office estimated.

In the preface to the Pentagon report, Harold Lewis, who directed the study, says: "It is extremely unlikely — that the air force approach would lead to a target auto-recognition system on which one can rely."

The study suggests that tests in which the system located targets and dispatched missiles to destroy them were unrealistic and that "data on Soviet tanks operating in German forests, with camouflage, do not exist."

The report says the system works by comparing heat patterns produced by tanks and recorded in its memory with patterns detected during combat. Tests showed the memory is too limited to work well.

A NATO jet on a general search for enemy tanks would be beset by "monumental false alarm rates," says the report. A Pentagon official said cars might be misidentified as tanks.

Soviets say New York is not fit place for U.N.

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union stepped up attacks on New York's suitability as headquarters of the United Nations following a U.S. delegate's comment earlier this week that America would wish the organisation a fond farewell.

The official news agency TASS said the comment reflected U.S. contempt for the United Nations and the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya (Soviet Russia) said the U.S. appeared "incapable of fulfilling its international obligations."

The U.S. State Department has said chief American delegate Charles Lichenstein, in his comment, was not putting forward U.S. policy and that the U.S. took its responsibilities to the U.N. seriously.

Sovetskaya Rossiya said the Americans had chiefly punished themselves by making it impossible for the Soviet delegation chief, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, to attend the current

General Assembly session. "Firstly they have robbed themselves of an authoritative and influential partner in negotiations on mutual and international issues... secondly the U.S.A. has demonstrated to the world its incompetence as a country bearing the responsibility as headquarters of the United Nations," it said.

Mr. Gromyko cancelled his attendance at the U.N. after two U.S. state governors banned his plane from civilian airports following the destruction by a Soviet fighter of a South Korean Boeing 747 with 269 people on board. The State Department said he could land at a military airbase.

The Kremlin said the U.S. had failed to provide the usual guarantees of security for Mr. Gromyko, who as well as being the world's longest-serving foreign minister is a member of the Soviet politburo and deputy prime minister.

Salvador army accused of killing woman activist

GENEVA (R) — An international Roman Catholic group accused the El Salvador military of murdering the 34-year-old woman president of the country's human rights commission earlier this year.

Salvadoran authorities announced last March 15 that Mariamela Garcia Villas, a representative of the Pax Christi aid group as well as president of the non-governmental commission, had been killed during a clash between the armed forces and guerrillas.

Pax Christi said Tuesday its investigation indicated "she was murdered after being tortured for several hours on March 14 in the capital."

Pax Christi International's Central American coordinator Adrien-Claude Zoller said in a 53-page report: "The battle of March 14, 1983 of which the Salvadoran authorities speak was in reality a massacre of civilian non-combatants. There were at least 211 victims."

Mr. Zoller said his claim was based on information from a woman survivor of the killings and contacts with other human rights groups as well as his inquiries in El Salvador.

Mr. Zoller reported: "Mariamela Garcia Villas was captured during the La Bermuda massacre. She was taken by helicopter to the military school in the capital, where she was tortured savagely for several hours, then executed. From there her body was transported to the military hospital."

He added: "The Salvadoran armed forces and in particular the Atlacatl battalion are directly responsible for this execution."

Official announcements said the Atlacatl battalion took part in the El Bermuda operation. "A woman witness of the La Bermuda massacre declares that Mariamela Garcia Villas was carried alive into the helicopter," Mr. Zoller said, adding: "At San Salvador the military school has the evil reputation of being an interrogation and torture centre."

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 detectives accused of murder

BELFAST (R) — Three detectives were under guard at a secret police hideout in Northern Ireland after being charged Tuesday with murdering wanted guerrilla Eamon Tooman. Tooman was shot dead last November after he and two others crashed their car through a police checkpoint. When Sergeant William Montgomery, 28, and Constables Frederick Robinson, 26, and David Brannigan, 25, pleaded guilty recently in Portadown, County Armagh, their lawyer said they had fired because they thought the guerrillas opened fire first. A crown prosecutor said then forensic evidence showed conclusively none of the three men in the car had fired nor had any gun been recovered.

Scotland wins back Red Label whisky

LONDON (R) — The Scotch whisky which Scots have been unable to buy is on its way back to the highlands. The makers of Johnnie Walker Red Label said they had settled a dispute with the European Community which had kept the brand off the British market since 1977. The 163-year-old brand would reappear in British stores in November, distillers company said. It withdrew red label after the community ruled that sales broke its rules on free trade. Distributors in other European nations were in effect paying more for it than British buyers planning to export it to the same markets.

Mother watches sons die of thirst

CAMOOEWAL, Australia (R) — A pregnant mother lost in the Australian outback tried to breastfeed her two sons, aged eight and seven, in a desperate attempt to keep them alive, but the boys died in her arms only hours before rescuers arrived. Her husband said she also dug with her bare hands in a dry river bed and used urine-soaked sand to try to save the children from dehydration during the five-day ordeal in a remote part of arid northern territory. Brian Fitzpatrick told reporters at the home of his parents-in-law here that his wife Doreen wrapped the dead boys in her skirt and buried them in shallow graves shortly before police and trackers found her on Thursday night.

4 convicts shot dead in riot

PRETORIA (R) — Four black convicts were shot dead by warders when prisoners rioted at a maximum security prison at Barberton in the eastern Transvaal Tuesday. Justice Minister Kibbe Coetsee said in a statement. Three other prisoners and two staff members were injured, he said, adding: "Order has been restored and the situation is under control." Eight warders from the same prison are on trial charged with the murder of three prisoners who died after allegedly being assaulted and refused water and forced to work during extremely hot weather. The eight men, who have pleaded not guilty, have also been charged with assaulting 34 other prisoners with rubber truncheons while they worked at a dam last December in a temperature of 35 degrees Centigrade (95 F). During a speech in parliament last month, Mr. Coetsee said the Barberton prisoners represented "the worst possible elements" of the country's prison population.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

BREAKFAST

By Richard Silverstein

ACROSS
1 Word and crazy
2 Western clown
3 Kind of drink
4 Gave name to
5 Building
6 City
7 Argentine city
8 Star of "The
9 Collector"
10 Howling
11 Cow's ending
12 On
13 Never network
14 Strich and
15 May
16 Make a con-
17 Traction
18 Fast time
19 Waugh
20 Indian armada

DOWN
1 Tableland
2 Home bodies
3 Reductions in
4 1968 meaning
5 Like — in the
6 grass
7 Bitterness
8 Far away
9 First lady
10 Confront
11 Silver
12 River of
13 Hanoi's Jane
14 Facial
15 Cave in
16 Common
17 English
18 Confront
19 "Diane
20 Nightingale
21 Tote units

Diagramless

18 X 18, by Lara Alexandra

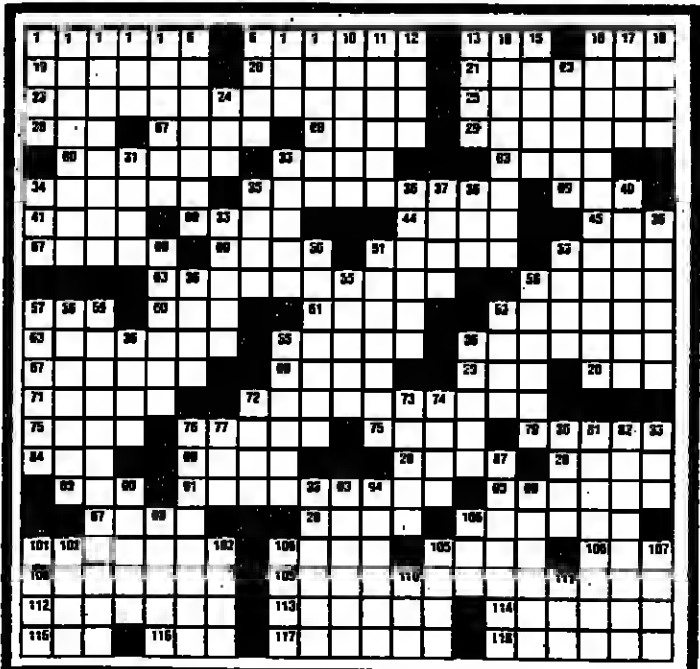
ACROSS
1 Hawthorne's
2 Zesty taste
3 Trashed friend
4 Hatred
5 Founder of
6 White or
7 Of fishery
8 Salsoroc
9 Nihilism
10 Nothing

DOWN
12 Esophagus
13 Bangor's state
14 Wings
15 "I — man
16 With —
17 Cincinnati
18 Type of
19 Handcuff
20 Course
21 Malign
22 Not waterproof

23 Mental laborer
24 Fiat
25 Regatta
26 Veli dancor
27 Style
28 Yarn
29 Flower parts
30 Put on bright
31 Autocrat
32 "room (dim)
33 In the past
34 Hard to understand
35 O.T. parrot

36 Gator's cousin
37 Albinus
38 Segregates
39 Gannet
40 Succinct
41 Past and
42 Memory
43 Memento
44 Server or
45 Jams
46 Tuba —
47 Bottle top

Edited by Herb Etkens

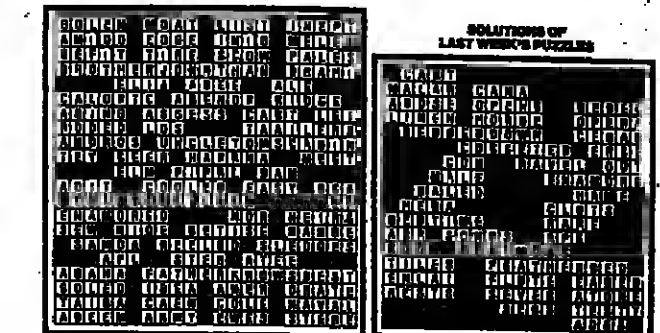


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Purple martins patrol premises in quest of unfortunate mosquitoes.
2. Gargyle goggled at my foster's unkind joke.
3. Very edgy Alaska Eskimos worried that last wave might melt igloos.
4. Little old soldier sold lots of fodder at fair.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. SWAN PWA SPOR UMFIUT FM KFYX EFXF. TYXAK FZFXPYMNFK IEMT DA BEX DAWNME. —By Linda M. Sperry
2. FPUTATO FTWOF PVE FTWOF UC PVE EYTTAT OVEKE W LOVER LYNCH LONEPUS. —By Len Sherry
3. IDEFEWET IDK INDEFWEK IEPFDS NUF USOD SERP IODEFWEKOR. —By Eula Dew
4. HEVG RESHELVEG BANULNOT IT SLOBAY. REPO LU SLOOPVESHELV. —By Norton Rhodes



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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q1073 ♣ Q65 ♦ K92 ♠ 863
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K1087 ♣ K62 ♦ K95 ♠ 643
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A163 ♣ K95 ♦ 95 ♠ A17
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Dble Pass 1 ♠ 3 ♣ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.4 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ 5 ♣ KQ1087 ♠ A17652
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 5 ♠ 87642 ♦ K754 ♠ A106
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ Dble ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 875 ♠ A1 ♣ K10954 ♠ KJ8
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ 3 ♣ ?
What action do you take?